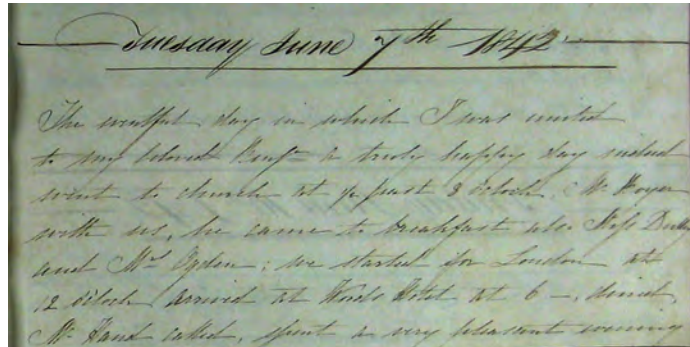




The diary of Sarah Ogden (née Cort) 1842 - 1851



Sarah Ogden (1817-95) was a daughter of Benjamin Cort, a prosperous ironfounder of Leicester, and was brought up in a fine 8-bedroom house in Welford Place. Her diary starts with her marriage in 1842 to her first cousin Benjamin Cort Ogden, an employee of a Leicester bank. The bank's collapse the following year, however, led to Ogden's appointment as manager of the Stamford, Spalding and Boston Banking Co. in Uppingham, where they lived for the next five years. In 1848, he opened a branch of that bank in Grantham, where they settled. Sarah's diary ends in 1851 when they were living at 18, High Street, Grantham with a groom and two servants. The Ogdens were a prosperous middle class couple, had no children and were Strict Baptists; the diary gives a vivid picture of their social life in Leicester, Uppingham and Grantham.

The diary has been transcribed and annotated by Nigel Webb, a Great Great Great grandson of Sarah's father.

Uppingham historian Peter Lane has kindly provided a commentary and notes on individuals appearing in the diary for the Ogdens' period of residence in Uppingham (Appendix). It is hoped that someone would like to do likewise for their periods in Leicester and Grantham: please would anyone willing to do this contact Nigel Webb at nandcwebb@gmail.com. Feed back of any sort, especially if potentially adding to readers' understanding of the diary, would be welcomed and should be sent to the same address.

Part 1: Benjamin & Sarah Ogden are resident in Leicester

7 June 1842 - 14 July 1843

p. 4

Part 2: Benjamin & Sarah Ogden are resident in Uppingham

15 July 1843 - 23 May 1848

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Part 3: Benjamin & Sarah Ogden are resident in Grantham

24 May 1848 - 3 Mar 1851

p. 84

Appendix:

Commentary on the Uppingham residence

Follows page 98

On June 7th, 1842, at St. Margaret's, Leicester, Sarah Cort aged 24, was married to her first cousin¹ Benjamin Cort Ogden, aged 35, an employee of Clarke & Phillips, bankers.

Sarah's parents were Benjamin Cort, then aged 66, ironfounder but describing himself by then as 'Gentleman', and Elizabeth Cort, née Cam, then aged 56.

Benjamin's parents were Henry Ogden, grazier of Tugby, Leics, who had died four years previously, and Martha Ogden, née Cort, then aged 61.

Sarah's siblings were:

Eliza(beth) Cam Cort, then aged 25 who, by 1842, had married Henry Thompson, aged 32, solicitor, practising in Grantham;

Joseph Cort, then 23;

Robert Cort, then 22;

Charlotte ('Chilly') Cort, then 16, whose admirer Henry Hand is a frequent caller.

Benjamin's siblings were:

Robert Ogden, then 41;

Elizabeth Ogden, then 38 who, by 1842, was married to Charles Billings and living at King's Norton;

John Ogden, grazier, then 36 who, by 1842, was married to Jane, aged 24, and living in Rolleston in the parish of Tugby;

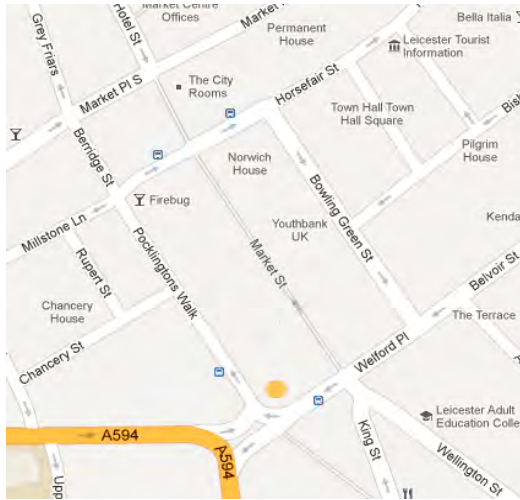
Ann Ogden, then 33 who, by 1842, was married to John Dexter and lived at Hallaton;

Martha Ogden, then 32 who, by 1842, was married to John Adams, and lived in Birmingham, then from 1844 in Stratford and from about 1846 in Leicester;

Jane Ogden, then 26 who, by 1842, was married to Thomas Adams, brother of John, and also lived in Birmingham.

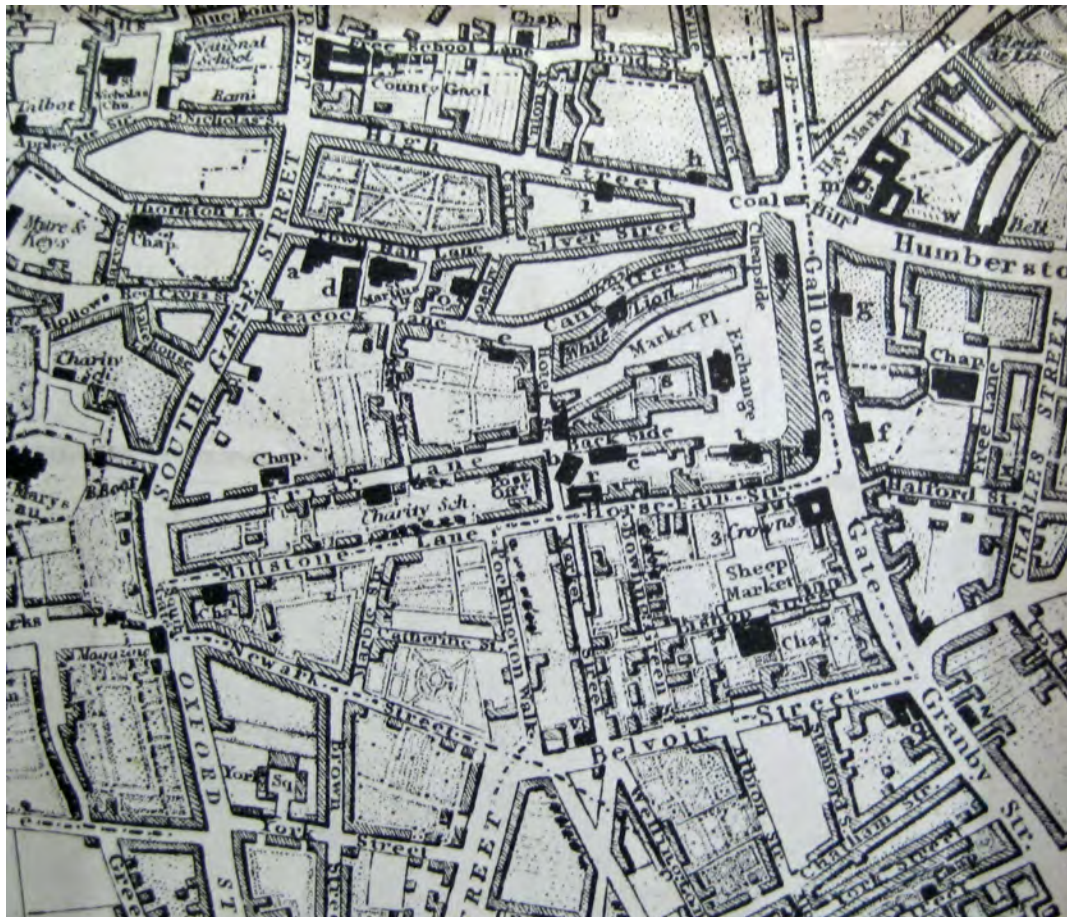
¹ First cousin marriages were in no way frowned upon in the first half of the nineteenth century – indeed both Queen Victoria and Charles Darwin married their first cousins!

In 1841, Benjamin's mother Martha Ogden, widow, grazier, was living in the parish of Tugby with one male and two female servants. John and Jane Ogden and a child aged 5 months, plus employees, lived nearby in Rolleston, also in Tugby parish.



Also in 1841, according to the census, the Cort family were living in substantial accommodation on Pocklington Walk and Welford Place, in the parish of St Margaret with Bishops Fee, Leicester, with one male and two female servants; the elder daughter Elizabeth, her husband Henry Thompson, solicitor, and their three children, aged respectively 4, 2 and 10 months, and a female servant are listed straight after them, presumably either in the same house or an adjacent one. The site must have been roughly where the yellow disc is placed on the modern map shown;

the site appears in this position on the Ellis map of 1828, below, although Welford Place is not identified on this map. The chapel in Free School Lane which Benjamin and Sarah attended appears at the top of the map. The building marked 'f' in Gallowtree Gate is the Clarke & Phillips bank where Benjamin was employed.



Part 1: Benjamin & Sarah Ogden are resident in Leicester

June 1842

As will become apparent, both Sarah and Benjamin were Strict Baptists and, after 1837, Baptist marriages were legal, but only with certain provisions regarding licensing and registration. In their case, the parish church would presumably have been the only practical possibility since the Salem Strict Baptist Chapel, which they attended, was probably not licensed:

Tuesday June 7th 1842. The eventful day in which I was united to my beloved Benjⁿ; a truly happy day indeed. Went to church at ½ past 8 o'clock, Mr Boyer² with us, he came to breakfast, also Miss Dulley³ and Mrs Ogden⁴; we started for London at 12 o'clock. Arrived at Woods Hotel⁵ at 6, dined, Mr Hand⁶ called, spent a very pleasant evening.

Wednesday June 8th 1842. Went to British Museum in the morning. Started by railway⁷ at ½ past 2 o'clock for Tunbridge, travelled from thence by coach to Hastings, where we arrived at 8 – chose lodgings, No. 6 Pelham Place, had tea, much refreshed afterwards and truly thankful to have reached the end of our journey in safety. The person's name who attended upon us: Mrs Woolett

Thursday June 9th 1842. Had a most delightful walk to the East Cliff & called upon Mrs Crossly in the morning, wrote letters⁸ in afternoon, had warm bath, tea late, a very very delightful evening, one I hope never to forget!!

Friday June 10th 1842. Took a walk to Wellington Square & Mrs Crossly came for tea, walked home with her – enjoyed Mrs C.'s company much, her manner so exceedingly friendly and affable.

Saturday June 11th 1842. Went to the Castle hill in the morning, most delighted with the magnificent scenery, walked on Parade in the evening; this memorable week has passed delightfully and I am indeed truly happy in thus enjoying the endearing society of my beloved Benjamin.

Sunday June 12th 1842. My beloved husband read to me in the morning and conversed in a most pleasing manner, went to church in the evening, walked on Parade afterwards, pleasant conversation; a day which will ever be remembered

2 A witness of the wedding, probably best man

3 Probably Elizabeth Dulley, who lived close by and who was married shortly afterwards

4 Martha Ogden, Benjamin's mother: see biographical notes above

5 In Furnival's Inn, Holborn, a locality well-known to Dickens

6 Henry Hand, admirer of Sarah's younger sister Charlotte

7 Leicester Railway Station had been opened in 1840, permitting travel to London (Euston) via Rugby.

8 The Uniform Penny Post had been introduced in 1840.

with gratitude to the Almighty for his unspeakable mercies to one of the most unworthy of his creatures!!

Monday June 13th 1842. Bathed in the sea, had a walk afterwards, wrote to Charlotte⁹ in afternoon, called upon Mrs Crossly in the evening, walked to the summit of the East Cliff.

Tuesday June 14th 1842. Received letters from Mr Boyer, Miss Ravenhill and Charlotte, pleased to hear from them, walked towards St Leonards in the evening, enjoyed it very much indeed.

Wednesday June 15th 1842. Had a row on the water to the Lover's Seat, lady & gent & daughter with us, most beautiful scenery, staid an hour, the sea rather rough on our return; walked on Parade in the evening.

Thursday June 16th 1842. Letters from Mr Boyer & Charlotte, gloves & cards from Mr & Mrs Sheldon, Steamer from Brighton, walked to St Leonards in the evening, admired the town but certainly prefer Hastings.

Friday June 17th 1842. Had a pleasant strole on the sands, found a few stones, wrote to Charlotte, Benj wrote to Mr Boyer; my dearest had a ride in the evening, felt quite lonely without him, bought a few shells &c.

Saturday June 18th 1842. Walked on the West Cliff in the morning. My dearest enjoyed a ride on his favourite charger in the afternoon. Mrs Crossly took tea with us at a late hour - a beautiful moonlight scene about 11 o'clock, such a large vessel in full sail which with some difficulty landed very near us.

Sunday 19th June 1842. Rained in the morning, my dear husband read to me, cleared up in the afternoon, went to Church in the evening, had a pleasant walk afterwards.

Monday 20th June 1842. Had some thoughts of going to Dover, the weather being rather unsettled, we declined doing so. Mrs Crossly called in the morning, I talked for the last time.

Tuesday 21st June 1842. Walked on sands in the morning. My dearest went to Newsroom in afternoon. I packed up and prepared for our departure.

Wednesday 22nd June 1842. Took our farewell of Hastings at 11 o'clock for Tunbridge Wells, arrived there about 4, had dinner, took a walk, went to a shop of Tunbridge Ware, choose a few articles, I had terrible sick headache, adventure on the Parade.

Tunbridge Ware



⁹ Sarah's younger sister: see biographical notes above

Thursday 23rd June 1842. Had a delightful walk in the morning to the Grove &c. Left the Kentish Hotel at ½ past 2 o'clock by coach to Tunbridge, from thence travelled by railway to London, then proceeded in a coach to the Golden Cross, Mrs Edwards not at home when we arrived, but afterwards received with very great kindness.

Friday 24th June 1842. Went by Omnibus to Brentford, most delighted to see dear Bessy, dined there, Mrs Tuck staying there, Miss Sheldon & Mr John came for tea, a very very pleasant visit, reached Golden Cross about 8, went to the Adelaide Gallery, very much gratified with the disolving views. Miss Ravenhill arrived on our return.

(The Royal Adelaide Gallery of Practical Science, near Charing Cross hospital, under the management of Jacob Perkins, inventor and entrepreneur, was mainly devoted to the wonders of applications of steam and electricity.)

Saturday 25th June 1842. Mrs Edwards and Miss Ravenhill accompanied us to the Zoological Gardens, afterwards to the Pantheon & Lake Bazar, had tea at six went, to Madam Tussauds exhibition at night.

(Charles Knight, in Knight's London, 1842, writes: 'The Pantheon Bazaar is a place of more show and pretensions. It was originally a theatre, one of the most fashionable in London; but having met with the discomfitures which have befallen so many of our theatres, it remained untenanted for many years, and was at length entirely remodelled and converted into a bazaar. When we have passed through the entrance porch in Oxford Street, we find ourselves in a vestibule, containing a few sculptures, and from thence a flight of steps lead up to a range of rooms occupied as a picture gallery. These pictures, which are in most cases of rather moderate merit, are placed here for sale, the proprietors of the bazaar receiving a commission or percentage on any picture which may find a purchaser. From these rooms an entrance is obtained to the gallery, or upper-floor of the toy-bazaar, one of the most tasteful places of the kind in London. We look down upon the ground story, from this open gallery, and find it arranged with counters in a very systematical order, loaded with uncountable trinkets. On one counter are articles of millinery; on another lace; on a third gloves and hosiery; on others cutlery, jewellery, toys, children's dresses, children's books, sheets of music, albums and pocket-books, porcelain ornaments, cut-glass ornaments, alabaster figures, artificial flowers, feathers, and a host of other things, principally of a light and ornamental character. Each counter is attended by a young female, as at the Soho Bazaar. On one side of the toy-bazaar is an aviary, supplied with birds for sale in cages; and adjacent to it is a conservatory where plants are displayed in neat array.'

At 'The Bazaar', Baker Street, since 1835, Madame Tussaud's exhibition particularly featured a 'Chamber of Horrors', exploiting her experiences of the French Revolution. In 1842, aged 81, she made her final figure, a self-portrait.)

Sunday 26th June 1842. Walked to St James Park to meet Her Majesty, saw her & Prince Albert return from the Royal Chapel after dinner, drove to the Cottage, spent a pleasant afternoon, had tea in the summer house, returned to Charing Cross about 9 o'clock.

Monday 27th June 1842. Went to Brixton directly after breakfast, returned in about an hour, hired a cab, called upon Mr Hand and Mr Lincoln, dined, went to the National Gallery, magnificent paintings, to the Adelaide &c in the evening, Mr Edwards with us.

Tuesday 28th June 1842. The day for our return, started from London by the 11 o'clock train, delighted indeed to see once more my favourite old Leicester, Mr Boyer met us at the station with a Fly¹⁰, accompanied us to Rutland Street¹¹ where we were most cordially welcomed by dear Charlotte.

Wednesday 29th June 1842. Very happy indeed in surveying my dear new house, my dear husband went to the Bank¹² at 9 o'clock, returned home at 5 for dinner.

Thursday 30th June 1842. Very happy to find that my dearest would not be obliged to leave me for 2 months as I had expected, he spent the evening with me, very much pleased in looking over his letters.

July 1842

Friday 1st July. Mr Boyer called in the morning, wrote letters to Eliza, Mrs Billings¹³ and Miss Ravenhill. My dearest left me from 9 until 5 as usual, very glad to see him again.

Saturday 2nd July. Mr Billings, Joseph¹⁴ & Mr Boyer called in the morning. I presented a cake basket to my dear husband in the evening.

Sunday 3rd July. Expected my dearest would leave me early on Monday morning for Uppingham, most agreeably surprised when he told me at breakfast that he was not going until Wednesday. Chapel morning and evening, Charlotte had tea with us, we walked in garden at Welford Place¹⁵ in the evening and stayed supper.

Monday 4th July. Charlotte came in the morning; Mr & Mrs Chamberlain, Miss C. & Jane called¹⁶. Mr Lockward highly offended about cards.

10 A light vehicle on hire, probably covered and drawn by a single horse

11 Benjamin gave 'Rutland Street' as his place of residence on the marriage certificate.

12 He was working for the banking house of Clarke, Mitchell, Phillips & Smith, Gallowtree Gate, which had branches in Leicester, Uppingham, Oakham, Melton Mowbray and Lutterworth, the first four of which, Uppingham particularly, he has to visit in the course of his work.

13 Elizabeth Billings, née Ogden, Benjamin's sister, married to Charles Billings: see biographical notes

14 One of Sarah's brothers

15 The Cort home in Welford Place and Pocklington Walk, Leicester

16 Joseph and Jane Chamberlain and daughters. Joseph, whom Sarah often identifies as 'Mr C.', was minister of Salem Strict Baptist chapel, in Freeschool Lane, from when it was built in 1818 until 1852; evidently this was the chapel Sarah and Benjamin attended. Sarah's uncle, James Cort, a member of the Harvey Lane Baptist Chapel, was one of the founders, in 1831, of the Central Baptist Church in Charles Street. The 1851 census found, for Leicester, that 62% of the population attended Christian services, of which 41% were Church of England, 38% were Baptist and 17% were Methodist. Thus, Baptists in Leicester were unusually strong.

Tuesday 5th July. Charlotte came in the morning, dined with us, Mr & Mrs Dexter¹⁷ came, went out with her, they stayed tea, Mr & Mrs J. Cort Jun^{r18} called in the evening.

Wednesday 6th July. My beloved went to Uppingham, Mrs & Miss Broughton called, chapel in the evening

Thursday 7th July. Mr Meadows called in the morning, my beloved had an attack of spasms about 6 o'clock, myself very much alarmed, not having seen him so before, he slept a little on the sofa in the evening, many thoughts passed through my mind while watching him, and a prayer arose in my heart that these afflictions may be blest to us and that we may each be led to seek an inheritance in that kingdom where sickness & sorrow will be for ever done away.

Friday 8th July. My dear husband better than I expected, went to the bank as usual, may we ever be enabled to praise the Lord for his success!

Saturday 9th July 1842. Market in the morning, Mr & Mrs J. Ogden came for dinner, Mr & Mrs Thos Harrison called.

Sunday 10th July 1842. Chapel morning and evening C(harlotte) & J(oseph) came for tea, very encouraging sermon from the 129th Psalm very pleasing converse with my beloved Benjamin on our return.

Monday 11th July 1842. Charlotte, Joseph and myself went to Tugby, disappointed that my beloved husband could not accompany us, large party for dinner dance in the barn in afternoon, singing in the evening.

Tuesday 12th July 1842. Walked in the garden &c in the morning, large party for dinner. Mr & Mrs T. Harrison the old women had tea, went to see them, returned home in the evening, delighted to see my beloved again.

Omitted to write

Friday 22nd July 1842. Mr J. Haddon and J. Cort came for dinner, Mr Boyer went to Ashby, my dearest and self took a walk in the evening, called at Welford Place.

Saturday 23rd July. Took a walk with my beloved in Ayleston Lane in the evening, met the Misses Philips - enjoyed it much.

Sunday 24th July. Chapel morning and evening, Mr Hand at Welford Place, Miss Ravenhill called in afternoon, Benjⁿ intended to go to church with her, was prevented by C. & W. H. calling, my dearest read to me, sermon by the Revd R. Hall¹⁹ 6 vol 9 Ser, walked in garden at Welford Place in evening, stayed supper.

17 John and Annie Dexter of Hallaton, Annie being a sister of Benjamin's. John described himself as a butcher in Tur Langton in the 1841 census but, by the 1851 census, was a farmer of 250 acres with 3 labourers in Hallaton.

18 James Cort Junior appears to have been a son of Sarah's uncle James

19 Probably Hall, R.: The complete works of the late Rev. Robert Hall, Arnsby, Leicestershire..., London, 1828. He was a Baptist minister; Harvey Lane, Leicester and Enderby were amongst the chapels at which he was minister.

Wednesday 27th July. Mrs & Miss Philips called in the morning, exceedingly pleasant and affable – Chapel in the evening.

Thursday 28th July. Charlotte and Papa went to Grantham, Mamma poorly could not go – we called upon her in the evening – Mrs Chamberlain there, called at the Bell on our return.

Friday 29th July. The Assizes. Large party at the Bell. Benjⁿ called there, I called at Welford Place in evening, my dearest wrote note to Mr Dashw(ood) at night.

Saturday 30th July. Mamma went to Grantham, I accompanied her to the coach, late for dinner. John dined with us, Papa called during dinner, Mrs Franks & Miss H. Huskisson called afterwards. My dearest drove me to Rolleston²⁰ in the evening in Mr Philip's gig.

Sunday 31st July. My dear husband had a long walk with John in morning, satisfactory converse. I read "Light Shining", went to church in afternoon, returned to dear old Leicester in the evening.

August 1842

Wednesday 3rd August 1842. Mr Philips had breakfast with us at 7 o'clock, and accompanied Benjⁿ to Uppingham

Thursday 4th August. Mrs Ogden came on her return from Birmingham – slept at our house, left Mrs Adams²¹ still very weak and poorly, brought us a pair of doves.

Friday 5th August. Went to High X street²² with Mrs Ogden in the morning, (Papa dined with us), she went to Tugby by Omnibus in afternoon. I & Benjⁿ called upon Mrs Crossly and at the Bell in the evening.

Saturday 6th August. J. Ogden came for dinner; the cage came for the doves: felt very poorly in the evening.

Sunday 21st August. Went to Chapel in Fly, wet morning, very happy once more to hear the sound of the blessed gospel; we dined at Welford Place. I returned home in Fly after tea, my dearest came after chapel, conversed very pleasantly.

Monday 22nd August, 1842. My dear husband went with Mr Philips to Melton fair, returned home about 7 o'clock, very fine fair. I called at Welford Place & went in the town in the morning.

20 Location of the home of John Ogden, Benjamin's brother, and his family. White's directory of 1846 describes him as 'the only farmer and grazier in the chapelry' which, 2 miles S.E of Billesdon, had 43 inhabitants.

21 Martha, Adams (née Ogden)

22 Probably to the home of James Cort, Benjamin Cort's brother and Sarah's uncle.

Tuesday 23rd August 1844 (sic). Benjⁿ did not go to Melton, several of the Gents out. We dined at Welford Place. I went to Oadby for tea. Papa, Mamma, Charlotte, Mrs C, Mrs B, Jacques &c., A & Elizabeth formed the party, pleasant evening. My dearest brought Mr Goddard to supper.

Wednesday 24th August 1842. Mr Bedelles had breakfast with Benjamin and accompanied him to Uppingham, did not reach home until 8 o'clock, took lodgings for Mr B. Mr Philips called at our house, myself at Chapel, very encouraging discourse from the 51C Jeremiah 10v

Thursday 25th August 1842. Charlotte and Papa went to Brentford, a wet day, I and Benjamin went to the Bell for tea & supper, Mr Higinson there – very particular conversation when we returned, from 10 until 1 o'clock, I would desire to bless and praise the Almighty who hath enabled me to trust in Him a faithful and unchanging God!

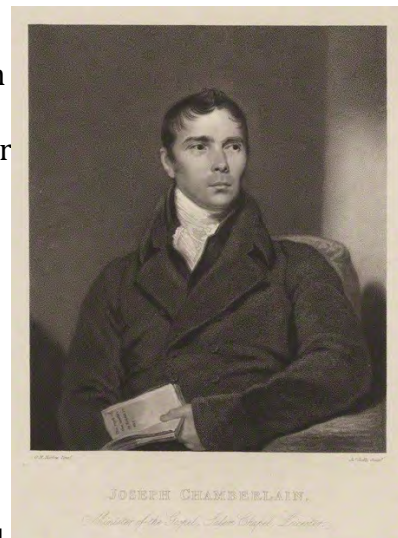
Friday 26th August 1842. I called upon Mamma – she came for dinner, we called upon Mrs Lockward in the evening.

Saturday 27th August 1842. Called upon Mamma, letter from Charlotte, I wrote to her in afternoon – very busy day at the Bank.

Sunday 28th August 1842. My dearest nervous and poorly in the morning, went to chapel, Mr C.²³ at Grantham. My beloved conversed very pleasantly in the afternoon, chapel in the evening, converse afterwards, very happy day, my dear husband better in evening.

Monday 29th August 1842. My Beloved went to Uppingham by coach. I had breakfast with him at 7 o'clock, he left me for four days. I dined at Welford Place, wrote to Benjⁿ in the afternoon, returned after supper, felt very lonely.

Tuesday 30th August 1842. Mamma & Mrs Dullely called, began a drawing, letter from dearest by coach, wrote to him, Mr Boyer called in evening and Mr & Mrs R. Jacques.



Joseph Chamberlain

Wednesday 31st August. Called upon Mrs W. Lockward in the morning, went to Welford Place for dinner, Chapel in the evening. Mr Meadows walked home with me and stayed supper

²³ Joseph Chamberlain, minister of Salem Strict Baptist Chapel in Freeschool Lane, which Sarah attends regularly. A 'Huntingtonian', he was also in demand as a preacher at Grantham, Newark and Ely.

September 1842

Thursday 1st September 1842. Letter from Benjⁿ, he returned home about 12 o'clock with Mr Bell²⁴ in his carriage, delighted indeed to see my Beloved again, Mr Lockward came in the evening, stayed supper.

Friday 2nd September 1842. Mr & Mrs J. Adams²⁵ came on their way to Tugby, Mrs A. looking exceedingly ill. I & Benjⁿ went to H. X St²⁶ for tea, returned home early, settled accounts.

Saturday 3rd Sep^r 1842. Mr T. Huskisson, Thos Darker and J. Ogden dined with us, venison, Mrs Shipmans present.

Sunday 4th Sep^r 1842. Mr Thos Darker came to breakfast, Benjⁿ very poorly, could not go out in the morning. I went to Chapel, letter from Chilly²⁷, Chapel in the evening.

Monday 5th Sep^r 1842. My dear Benjamin went to Uppingham at 6 o'clock, sorry indeed to part with him; called upon Mamma, wrote long letter to Chilly, called at Mr C.'s with Mamma in evening.

Tuesday 6th Sep^r 1842. Very busy preserving, Mr & Mrs Dexter called; sent wine &c to Uppingham, had tea with Mamma.

Wednesday 7th Sep^r 1842. Dined with Mamma. Chapel in evening.

Thursday 8th Sep^r 1842. My dear husband returned, very happy to see him, much annoyed with the chimney smoking in breakfast room, went in the town in evening.

Friday 9th Sep^r 1842. A wet day, Benjⁿ went to Oakham fair, came home about 8 o'clock, Mr Philips accompanied him, accident before they reached Melton, providential escape, my dearest exceedingly ill with violent headache.

Saturday 10th Sep^r 1842. My dearest very weak and poorly, went to Mr Nedham²⁸ in evening, Mamma came for tea. Dear Charlotte had the operation performed in her throat by Mr Skey. Papa with her.

24 Probably Leonard Bell, wine and spirits merchant of 4, Market Place, Uppingham (The Vaults). He was also the landlord of the Uppingham branch of 'the Leicester bank', Clarke & Phillips, for which Benjamin Ogden worked. Alternatively this entry may refer to his son Samuel. (PNL)

25 John Adams (in full. Enoch John Buttwell Adams), timber merchant, was married to Benjamin's sister Martha.

26 i.e. High Cross Street, the address of Sarah's uncle and aunt, James and Mary Cort

27 i.e. her sister Charlotte

28 John Nedham of 7, Belgrave Gate and Upper Hall, Scraftoft, is listed, in White's directory of 1846, as a surgeon (who lends his aid gratuitously to the Infirmary and the Lunatic Asylum) and also Rector of Pickwell, a magistrate, on the board of management of the Free Grammar School and a patron of Christ Church (accommodation in N. E. Leicester).

Sunday 11th Sep^r 1842. My dear husband better went to chapel in the morning, very encouraging sermon, dined at Welford Place, letter from Papa & Charlotte, I wrote to her. Chapel in evening, a truly blessed discourse, for texts see pocket book, a happy day indeed, one I hope ever to remember with heartfelt gratitude to the Almighty who thus has granted me more than I could ask or think.

Monday 12th Sep^r 1842. My Beloved went to Uppingham again at 6 o'clock; Mamma & Joseph, Mrs Ogden & J. Adams came for dinner. I and Mama called upon Mrs Dulley, I returned home afterwards, the house appeared very lonely without the presence of my only beloved, wrote to him.

Tuesday 13th Sep^r 1842. Letter from dearest in the morning. Papa returned from London. I had tea with Mamma. Miss Philips called when I was out, Chapel at night.

Wednesday 14th Sep^r 1842. Mrs Dibben called, I went out, went to Welford Place after tea.

Thursday 15th Sep^r 1842. Benjamin returned from Uppingham, brought Carlo with him, very happy to see my Beloved again, called at Welford Place in the evening, supped at the Bell.

Friday 16th Sep^r 1842. Our little dog lost, Mary discovered the thieves, brought him safely back. Called upon Mamma in the morning, went in town with her. M. A. Sargeant came for dinner, Chilly returned from Brentford, Mr Hand with her, I met them at the Station, Benjamin joined us for tea at Welford Place, and spent the evening. Mr H. left by the Mail Train.

Saturday 17th Sep^r 1842. Went in market in the morning, Benjⁿ very much engaged at the Bank, I called at Welford Place in the afternoon, went to Mr Williams in evening.

Sunday 18th Sep^r 1842. Mr C. at the Isle of Ely, Chapel morning & evening. My dearest in low spirits upon recollecting his Fathers death²⁹.

Monday 19th Sep^r 1842. My Beloved went to Uppingham early in the morning, I went to Welford Place for tea, Mrs Dulley called in the evening, wrote to Benjamin.

Tuesday 20th Sep^r 1842. Letter from dearest, spent the day at Welford Place, wrote to Benjⁿ in evening.

Wednesday 21st Sep^r 1842. Charlotte came in the morning we called upon Mrs Dulley, Chilly dined with me Chapel in the evening.

Thursday 22nd Sep^r 1842. My Beloved returned from Uppingham, delighted indeed to see him again and happy to find that it is the last time he will have to leave me for so long.

Friday 23rd Sep^r 1842. A wet day, did not go out, sent waistcoat to Mr Boyer, on Saturday went in the market, Chilly called.

²⁹ He had died on 13th October 1838

Saturday 24th & Sunday 25th Sep^r 1842. Chapel in the morning and evening, A. & S. Wilkinson came to stay the week. Charlotte & Joe called in afternoon and Miss Ravenhill.

Monday 26th Sep^r 1842. Benjⁿ went to Oakham, went in town with A. & S. in the morning. Chilly came for dinner, Mr Bryan for tea.

Tuesday 27th Sep^r 1842. Benjⁿ returned home for dined at 6 o'clock, Mr Bedelles dined with us, and stayed the evening.

Wednesday 28th Sep^r 1842. Benjⁿ went to Uppingham; called at Mrs Burstons &c. Chapel at night.

Thursday 29th Sep^r 1842. Called upon Charlotte in the morning, the Misses Hand arrived at Welford Place, they called upon me in the afternoon. Benjⁿ returned from Uppingham, very happy to see him.

Friday 30th Sep^r 1842. Went in town in the morning, myself and Benjⁿ with A. & S. W., dined at Welford Place, Mr Goddard there for supper.

October 1842

Saturday 1st Oct^r 1842. Ann went in town with me, Sarah called at Mrs Burstons &c, Benjⁿ very lively in the morning.

Sunday 2nd Oct^r 1842. Chapel in the morning, J. & Robert called in afternoon, the Wilkinsons left us. Benjⁿ stayed at home in evening, very pleasant converse.

Monday 3rd Oct^r 1842. Called at the Bell in the morning, I dined at Welford Place, Mr Hand there, returned home for supper.

Tuesday 4th Oct^r 1842. Benjⁿ went to Melton, went in town in the morning, Miss Hands, Mr A.W., C. & J. came for tea, Papa joined us at supper, Mr Thos Darker called; dress ordered.

Wednesday 5th Oct^r 1842. Called upon Mrs Throsby, not at home; also Mrs Dulley. Chapel at night. Benjⁿ at Uppingham.

Thursday 6th Oct^r 1842. I called upon Mrs Dibben, dined at Welford Place, the Miss Hands & Mr H. still there, returned home for tea to recieve my beloved husband, he returned about 7 o'clock, delighted indeed to see him once more, spent a very pleasant evening together, settled accounts.

Friday 7th Oct^r 1842. Mr Boyer called in the morning, I & Benjⁿ went to the Bell for tea & supper, Mrs Shipman there; called at Court & Crossly's before we went, collection of drawings.

Saturday 8th Oct^r 1842. Miss Hands & Chilly called in the morning, went in the market, Mr H left in the Friday evening.

Sunday 9th Oct^r 1842. Chapel morning and evening, Mr & Mrs J. Cort came for supper, converse between he & Benjamin

Monday 10th Oct^r 1842. The Fair, Mr Dexter and J. Ogden had breakfast with us and lunch. Benjⁿ spent the evening with me, dated my Diary.

Tuesday 11th Oct^r 1842. The cheese fair, Benjⁿ went to Melton. Mrs Ogden came, I went in the fair with her in the morning, Benjⁿ returned about 7 o'clock.

Wednesday 12th Oct^r 1842. Benjⁿ went to Uppingham, I called at Welford Place, Miss Hands left, Mrs Billings came from Birmingham, met her at the Station, she and Mrs Ogden returned home after tea, Chapel in the evening.

Thursday 13th Oct^r 1842. At home alone all day, Mary went to Desford, Benjⁿ went to dinner party at the Bell: opening of the new room.

Friday 14th Oct^r 1842. Went in the town in the morning, called at Welford Place, Chilly went out with me and dined at our house. I & Benjⁿ had tea and stayed the evening at Welford Place, converse about Joseph.

Saturday 15th Oct^r 1842. My dearest very poorly all day, in the evening had an attack of violent sick headache, sent for Mr Nedham, his young man called, ordered feet in warm water, medicine &c, my beloved bore it with the greatest patience, my self up until nearly 1 o'clock.

Saturday 16th Oct^r 1842 (sic). I went to chapel morning and evening, my beloved husband still very poorly, in bed until dinner, could not go out; these circumstances evince to us the uncertainty of every thing here below seeing then how soon our best joys may be torn from us. May we be led more and more to place our affections on those things which never disappointed.

Monday 17th Oct^r 1842. My dearest rather better, went to the Bank, spent the evening together, Benjⁿ looked over some of his letters, the Rev^d J^{no} Dashwoods &c.

Tuesday 18th Oct^r 1842. Benjⁿ went to Melton, returned home about 7 o'clock, spent the evening with me, dated diary.

Wednesday 19th Oct^r 1842. Benjⁿ went to Uppingham, I called at Welford Place, stayed dinner, seems that Mr Hand had made an assignment. Chapel at night.

Thursday 20th Oct^r 1842. Dined at Welford Place, S. Barker & C. Jacques there, came home for tea, Benjⁿ returned. Mr Philips called with letter respecting Innian of Grantham.

Friday 21st Oct^r 1842. Busy drawing in the morning, my dearest very hoarse, had a cough in the evening.

Saturday 22nd Oct^r 1842. My dear Benjamins cough very bad, sent for Mr Nedham in the evening, pain in the chest, headache &c. very poorly all night

Sunday 23rd Oct^r 1842. A wet day, my dearest Benjⁿ in bed until 7 o'clock. I did not go out. Papa called in the afternoon; serious and pleasant converse after he left, my beloved better in the evening, read to me, a sermon by the Rev^d R. Hall (vol 6 Ser 3) in which we found our opinions confirmed. Spent the evening very happily

together, expressing our thoughts and sentiments to each other; our hearts are indeed as one!

Thus may we abide in union
 With each other and the Lord
 And possess in sweet communion
 Joys which earth cannot afford

Monday 24th Oct^r 1842. Benjⁿ rather better, went to the Bank. Joseph called in the evening, he and Benjⁿ had a long conversation; I had a cold at night.

Tuesday 25th Oct^r 1842. Benjⁿ did not go to Melton on account of his cold, myself in bed until dinner, my dearest spent the evening with me, read to me while I worked, Papa called.

Wednesday 26th Oct^r 1842. In bed for breakfast, did not go out, Charlotte called, wrote to Benjⁿ in the evening felt very lonely without him.

Thursday 27th Oct^r 1842. Charlotte came for dinner and stayed the rest of the day, Mr Bedelles called Joseph, came for supper.

Friday 28th Oct^r 1842. Charlotte and Mrs Sheldon called in the morning, Benjⁿ returned from Uppingham for dinner, very happy to see him again.

Saturday 29th Oct^r 1842. Called upon Mrs Sheldon in the morning. My dear husband spent the evening at home, settled accounts.

Sunday 30th Oct^r 1842. Chapel morning and evening, a day not to be forgotten, very encouraging sermon in the evening from the 30th Ch. of Isaiah 19th verse, bless the Lord for all his mercies!

Monday 31st Oct^r 1842. Benjⁿ went to Oakham, I and Chilly called upon Bessy, she walked with us, Chilly and Mrs Sheldon came for tea, Mr T. Darker called, Papa came to take the ladies home.

November 1842

Tuesday 1st Nov^r 1842. I dined at Welford Place, Mrs Sheldon there, came home to meet Benjⁿ on his return from Melton, he went with me to W^d Place, stayed tea and supper.

Wednesday 2nd Nov^r 1842. My dearest went to Uppingham, Mrs Ogden and Mr Dexter came in the morning, they stayed dinner & left about 4 o'clock. Chapel in the evening.

Thursday 3rd Nov^r 1842. Mrs Sheldon called, went out with her, dined at W^d Place, came home to meet my dearest for tea.

Friday 4th Nov^r 1842. Mrs Sheldon, Mamma and Chilly came for tea, Papa and Joe for supper, very pleasant evening.

Saturday 5th Nov^r 1842. Wet day did not go out, J. Ogden came for dinner, my dearest at home in the evening, passed it very pleasantly together, thus ends another six days.

Sunday 6th Nov^r 1842. Chapel morning and evening. A.W. came for dinner, Charlotte for tea, Miss Ravenhill called in the afternoon.

Monday 7th Nov^r 1842. Called upon Mrs Sheldon in afternoon to say farewell, leaving Leicester the following morning; Benjⁿ very busy unpacking wine, pleasant evening, very good spirits.

Tuesday 8th Nov^r 1842. Wrote birthday letter to my dearest, chose gloves for him; he went to Melton, saw Henry there.

Wednesday 9th Nov^r 1842. Dearest went to Uppingham; had tea at W^d Place, Chapel in Fly in the evening, truly blessed discourse from the 2nd b of Kings 15 C 5 & 6 verses. Forget not this happy evening!

Thursday 10th Nov^r 1842. My dear husbands birthday; sorry we cannot spend it together; Benjⁿ returned home in the evening, very glad to see him again, had several calls to make in the evening.

Friday 11th Nov^r 1842. I and Chilly called upon Miss Martins at Mr C.'s in the morning. My dearest spent the evening with me, examined the content of his desk, very happy indeed.

Saturday 12th Nov^r 1842. Market in the morning, planted evergreens in our little garden. J.Ogden came for dinner, Benjⁿ very busy all day.

Sunday 13th Nov^r 1842. Chapel morning and evening, Mr C. at Newark; we dined at Welford Place, very pleasant afternoon, we returned home after chapel, rained very fast.

Monday 14th Nov^r 1842. Benjⁿ went to Oakham, I dined at W^d Place and stayed the rest of the day. Chilly and I had our likenesses taken for a shilling each.

Tuesday 15th Nov^r 1842. Benjⁿ at Melton, very wet for his return, had tea at home, went out afterwards; on Wednesday my dear husband went to Uppingham, Chilly called in the morning went out with her, dined at W^d Place, called at the Bell in afternoon, heard of Mr Trehern's death. Chapel in evening.

Thursday 17th Nov^r 1842. My dearest returned home at 7 o'clock beautiful evening, went out with him called upon Mrs Law³⁰, Mrs Broughton very ill, called at the Bell; Mr Boyer ill. Ordered sugar candy at the Kirbys for the sloes.

Friday 18th Nov^r 1842. Went in the town in the morning, Mrs Law of Uppingham came for dinner at 5 o'clock, Chilly dined with us.

³⁰ Probably Frances Law, wife of John Quincy Law, ironmonger of Uppingham and later, as a Leicesester ironfounder, a partner of Benjamin Cort. Law's shops were at 4, High Street East (also residence) and 8, Market Place. (PNL)

Saturday 19th Nov^r 1842. Rained in the morning, did not go out, wrote to A.F.Billings³¹ &c. My dear husband at home in the evening, made the sloes and gin, 19 bottles: 12 bottles of gin, 5 lb sugar candy.

Sunday 20th Nov^r 1842. Chapel in the morning, very encouraging sermon from Isaiah 19 C 20 v speaking of those who were coming to Christ for pardon and forgiveness; of seeking him with the whole heart; which signifies in sincerity and truth many excellent remarks; how impossible to worship God without many wandering thoughts, that we should not divert from our unworthiness but simply look to Christ; the mind of my dearest much relieved. Chapel in the evening.

Monday 21st Nov^r 1842. I dined at Welford Place, party for dinner, Mr & Mrs Chamberlain & family with Miss Martins and their brother; dearest could not go had bad cold, Mr Thos Darker with him.

Tuesday 22nd Nov^r 1842. Very miserable day for my dear husbands journey, snowed very much, quite in low spirits about him, returned home at 6, cold very bad and headache; did not go to Chapel.

Wednesday 23rd Nov^r 1842. Went to Welford Place directly after dinner, spent the evening, Mr Hand there, returned home after supper; on Thursday called upon Mrs Crossly, a fortnight after her confinement, called upon Mrs Dulley, Mrs Broughton, and at the Bell. My beloved return home, happy indeed to see him again, very good spirits, spent a very pleasant evening.

Friday 25th Nov^r 1842. Very showery, did not go out, my dearest called to see Mrs Broughton, exceedingly ill, her death daily expected.

Saturday 26th Nov^r 1842. Mrs Billings came early in the morning, had breakfast with us and stayed dinner, went out with her in the morning, called to see Mrs Broughton.

Sunday 27th Nov^r 1842. Chapel morning & evening, my dear Benjⁿ unusually (sic) happy during the day; may we ever be enabled to bless and praise the Almighty, who hath thus taught each of us to know the joyful sound of the gospel.

Monday 28th Nov^r 1842. Rained in the morning, did not go out, dearest at home, made several calls in the evening.

Tuesday 29th Nov^r 1842. Benjⁿ went to Melton, I called upon Mrs Philips, also at the Rev^d J.C.'s & Mrs Lockward's, London Road, Chilly dined with me, & surprised my dear husband by appearing from the Chinese temple. Miss Broughton called in the evening. Mrs B. better; still very ill.

Wednesday 30th Nov^r 1842. Went in the town in the morning, Chapel in the evening; Benjⁿ at Uppingham.

31 Ann Frances Billings (known as Ann Fanny) was the eldest daughter of Charles & Elizabeth (née Ogden) Billings who lived at King's Norton and was then aged 13.

December 1842

Thursday 1st Dec^r 1842. Went to Welford Place for dinner, returned home for tea to welcome my dear husband, delighted to see him again, settled accounts – rather expensive month coals &c &c.

Friday 2nd Dec^r 1842. The Misses Martins & Chamberlains came for tea, Mamma & Chilly joined the party; Agricultural dinner at the Bell, Benjⁿ there assisting in the wine department, did not come home until after 12 o'clock. Mr & Mrs Lockward and Miss Huskinson called, did not see them.

Saturday 3rd Dec^r 1842. Mr & Mrs Dexter and J. Ogden dined with us, left at half past 3 o'clock – Papa called in the evening.

Sunday 4th Dec^r 1842. Chapel morning and evening, note from Mr Berridge in the morning upon business – very excellent sermon from (left blank) I went to Miss Broughtons in afternoon – dined, Benjⁿ called for me to go to Chapel.

Monday 5th Dec^r 1842. Called at W^d Place in the morning, went in town with Mamma and Chilly. Mary had company for tea, Mary & Cook & Mrs How. Mrs Brown called and joined them. Mr & Mrs J. Cort called. My Beloved in excellent spirits, bought a dinner service.

Tuesday 6th Dec^r 1842. My dearest went to Melton, very heavy fog. I called upon Mrs Cort, and went to see Mrs Cave. Went to Mrs J. Cort's for tea and supper, J. & Chilly with me, Mr & Miss Mitchel, Miss Priestland & Miss Rusel there. Benjⁿ came after tea, very poorly.

Wednesday 7th Dec^r 1842. Benjⁿ at Uppingham, I dined at W^d Place. Chapel in evening, called at Mrs Broughtons and the Bell, Mrs B still exceedingly ill.

Thursday 8th Dec^r 1842. Wrote to Eliza & S. Williamson in the morning. Mr & Miss Lockward called, and Miss Healy with Sam. & C. W. afterwards. Mamma and Chilly called, went out with them. Lavinia B.³² had tea with us, my beloved returned home in good spirits.

Friday 9th Dec^r 1842. Called at Welford Place, letter from Nottingham: R. left unknown to anyone, very low spirits, my dearest cheered me; unpacked wine at night, what a blessing to have a dear husband, to sympathize in me (sic) sorrows.

Saturday 10th Dec^r 1842. Market in the morning, Mr S. Chapman came for dinner & J. Ogden, Mr Hester came afterwards. Benjⁿ called at the Bell in the evening, Mr Cook & Mr Astill. Benjn spoke in behalf of Mr Philips, respecting the Agricultural Meeting.

Sunday 11th Dec^r 1842. Chapel morning and evening, Mr C. at Grantham. Letters from Henry & Eliza respecting R.: heard that he had enlisted in the Army, Papa went to Birmingham. I & Benjⁿ had tea at W^d Place, dearest staid with Joseph in the evening.

³² Lavinia Broughton, presumably

Monday 12th Dec^r 1842. Called at Welford Place in the morning, Papa returned home, R. with him, papa called in the evening, an account of his journey; busy bottling the porter &c.

Tuesday 13th Dec^r 1842. Benjⁿ went to Melton, Mamma and Chilly called, went out with them, afterwards I called upon Mrs Lockward & at the Bell. On Wednesday went to Welford Place to dine (Chapel at night, Mr C. at Grantham) staid supper, R. there, Chilly not very well.

Thursday 15th Dec^r 1842. Robert went to Nottingham, expected him – home – at – night he did not come – Dearest returned home; he called at Tugby to request a favor (sic) of Mrs Ogden which was not granted.

Saturday 17th Dec^r 1842. I called at W^d Place in the morning, Mamma in low spirits on account of Robert; wrote note to Mrs Ogden and sent parcel by John on Saturday containing the principle and interest due to her.

Sunday 18th Dec^r 1842. Chapel morning and evening, R. returned home in the morning, Joe and Chilly called in afternoon and stayed tea Monday. Mrs Ogden came at dinner time. I called at W^d Place in the morning, walked with Chilly. R & J went to Norton³³, I and Benjⁿ had tea at W^d Place, they returned home at night.

Tuesday 20th Dec^r 1842. Benjⁿ at Melton, went out in the morning, called upon Mrs Roberts &c., had headache after dinner, Benjⁿ returned; I took pills at night.

Wednesday 21st Dec^r 1842. Benjⁿ went to Uppingham, in bed for breakfast, dined at W^d Place, wrote to Benjⁿ, chapel in Fly at night, took medicine at night.

Thursday 22nd Dec^r 1842. In bed for breakfast, did not go out. Mrs J. Cort & Adeline called on Friday, went to Dibbens for tea and supper, Benjⁿ very poorly on my return. Mrs Broughton died³⁴.

A gig

Saturday 24th Dec^r 1842. Went to Tugby with John in his Gig, Benjⁿ and Joe followed at 7 o'clock, Mr & Mrs Thos Adams³⁵ there.



Sunday 25th Dec^r 1842. Christmas Day; had party for dinner: the whole of the family there except Mrs John, at home with her little son; the gents went to church in the afternoon, the singers came in the evening.

³³ i.e. King's Norton, where Charles and Elizabeth (née Ogden) Billings lived

³⁴ The Leicester Chronicle, 24.12.42, has: 'Yesterday, aged 57, Mrs Broughton, relict of Mr Broughton, Union Street'. Mr Broughton had been a surgeon.

³⁵ Thomas Adams, whose wife was Sarah's sister Jane, was a brother of John Adams, husband of Sarah's sister Martha. Like his brother John, he was a timber merchant and lived in Birmingham.

Monday 26th Dec^r 1842. The Gents out all day, rabbit catching, came back for tea, Joe & Benjⁿ returned to Leicester in the evening.

Tuesday 27th Dec^r 1842. Walked in the morning with Mr & Mrs Thos Adams to the New Hall³⁶, Mr & Mrs Adams went to Burton, returned for tea, we called upon Miss Bishop in evening.

Wednesday 28th Dec^r 1842. Went to Langton³⁷, party of 18 for dinner, nearly all stayed all night, Mrs R. Cort, R. and Ann there, also Mr & Miss Watts.

Thursday 29th Dec^r 1842. Walked in the morning, large party for dinner, tea and supper on Friday, returned home in Mrs Billings carriage, Mr & Mrs Adams had tea with us, very happy to see my beloved.

Saturday 31st Dec^r 1842. Called at W^d Place; Papa, Joe & Robert at Liverpool, Chilly and Mamma in rather low spirits. My dearest went to the Bell for supper and stayed to end the year, brought me some flowers and a new years gift.

Thus ends the year 1842, a year which will ever be a memorable one to myself and my dear husband Oh that we may ever be blest with grateful hearts for the unspeakable mercies daily received and knowing this is not our rest (?), may we be enabled to press forward to those things which are of far more importance than everything in this transitory world.

January 1843

January 1st 1843. Spent the day together at our own dear home. Chapel in the morning, very excellent sermon from Colossians 1st Ch. 23rd v. Chapel in the evening. My dearest in low spirits, pleasant converse, happy moments afterwards.

Saturday 7. Miss Broughton spent the better part of the week with us, J. & R. at Liverpool waiting for a favourable wind for the vessel to sail. Benjⁿ went his usual journeys. A. F. Billings and Charley³⁸ came to our house in the mornng. Eliza & Henry with H. B., Betsy and Baby came to W^d Place.

Sunday 8th. Chapel morning and evening, we had tea at W^d Place, left Ann Fanny and Charley at home

36 Presumably Rolleston Hall, of which White's directory of 1846 says: 'In improving the hall and grounds, the present proprietor has expended about £10,000 during the last 25 years.' The Lord of the Manor (and Master of the Quorn Hounds) was Henry Greene Esq.

37 Probably Tur Langton where the Dexters lived then, Ann Dexter being Benjamin's sister

38 Ann Frances Billings (known as Ann Fanny) was the eldest daughter of Charles & Elizabeth (née Ogden) Billings who lived at King's Norton and was then aged 14.

Saturday 14. A. F. and Charles stayed the week at our house. E. & H. &c had tea & supper with us on Monday, I dined at W^d Place on Tuesday and went to tea at Mr Chamberlains. E. & H. returned home on Thursday. My dear husband went to Melton and Uppingham. Mr & Mrs Billings dined with us today and took the children home; heavy fall of snow.

Sunday 15th. A very happy day, beautiful sunshiny morning, all around covered with deep snow. Chapel morning and evening, very meet and encouraging words from our dear Minister; text from 1st C. St John in 41st v. & 36th v. Had super (sic) at W^d Place, my dear husband had converse with Papa: Bless the dear Lord who hath graciously promised that none shall seek his face in vain, may these sweet glimerings (sic) of hope increase – more and more until righteousness go forth as brightness and Gods salvation as a lamp that burneth. Blessed is the man whom thou choosest, and causest to approach unto thee, that he may dwell in thy courts: we shall be satisfied with the goodness of thy house, even of thy holy temple. Psalm 65th – 4th verse.

Saturday 21st. A memorable circumstance took place this week, our poor dear brother left his native home on a voyage to India; the vessel sailed on Thursday 19th, may these changes lead him to see the error of his ways and be the means of enabling him to 'return unto the Lord' "for he will abundantly pardon": with Him all things are possible. On Tuesday I dined at W^d Place, Benjⁿ came for supper after his journey to Melton. A Ball at the Bell on Thursday³⁹, on Thursday Chilly and C. Billings dined with me, went to see the room decorated, Benjⁿ returned from Uppingham on Friday.

Sunday 22. Chapel morning and evening; L. Broughton came for tea; Joseph returned home from Liverpool; my dear husband very despairing, conversation in the evening after chapel, my dearest encouraged, many happy moments!! Enjoying that peace and comfort which the Lord alone can give. Serve the Lord with fear, and again with trembling, Psalm 2nd verse 11th.

Saturday 28th. On Monday had company for tea, Mr & Mrs Lockward, Mr & Mrs Hester, Mr Throsby J & Chilly, myself not very well; Benjⁿ took L. Broughton to Uppingham; rather unpleasant affair between J. C. & L. B. Mrs Ogden came with Benjⁿ on Thursday and stayed until Saturday. This evening my dearest and self have been busy unpacking a hamper of wine.

Sunday 29th. My dear husband not very well in the morning, stayed at home, very happy to find on my return from Chapel that he had passed a very pleasant morning in reading and meditation, at first much cast down but afterwards encouraged, and blest with a grateful sense of the mercy of God in hearing and answering the poor petitions of such unworthy creatures. Mr & Mrs J^{no} Adams at H X St, we went there for tea, chapel in the evening, many excellent remarks, confirming our conversation in mornig (sic); had supper at W^d Place, dearest had converse with Papa; forget not this truly happy day!!

39 'From the accommodation and excellent arrangements made by the Proprietors for the occasion, we have every reason to hope that it will be numerously and respectably attended. – The room having been considerably enlarged and improved, it is now a very eligible one for the abovementioned purpose.' Leicester Chronicle, 14.1.1843

February 1843

Saturday 4th. My dear husband and self went to Mr Lockward's for tea & supper, Mr Meadows and Mr Parsons there, I had a cold, in bed until dinner the next day, did not go out the whole of the week; on Friday a heavy snow storm, Norton church struck by lightening, the spire much injured⁴⁰, Benjⁿ went his journeys as usual.

Sunday 5th. Chapel morning and evening, very excellent sermon in the morning, Text Number 31st C, 23rd v. – conversation after chapel in the evening, my dearest very despairing yet not without some faint rays of hope – may the gracious promises of God be fulfilled for he hath said, “a bruised reed he will not break the smoking flax shall not be quenched”, may the work which the Almighty has begun, be carried on, and may we each be blest with that peace which the Lord alone can give.

Saturday 11th. Another week has passed nothing very particular has occurred. I dined at Welford Place on Wednesday, Mr Hitchcock and J. joined us at tea, Benjⁿ went to Melton and Uppingham as usual and once more returned home in safety. – How little we watch or regard the merciful hand of the Almighty yet he remembers us for his allseeing eye is ever over us, He indeed grants us far, far more than our utmost desires.

Sunday 12th. Chapel morning and evening, Mr C. at Grantham. We spent the day at Welford Place, Benjⁿ read in the evening at prayers – very happy in recalling many changes that have taken place within the last few years; every hope realised and my expectations far exceeded.

Saturday 18th. Very cold and uncomfortable weather for my dear husband's journeys, he came home on Thursday with sick headache, I dined at W^d Place and expected Hubby for tea; finding he was so poorly, I returned home immediately, he suffered much pain but bore it with the greatest patience, felt very unwell the following day, better on Saturday and in good spirits in the evening – Papa very poorly with asthmatical cough. Mrs Burbidge of Melton died on Tuesday 14th inst.

Sunday 19th. A truly blessed day! Chapel in the morning, very encouraging sermon from Corinthians 1 C16 18 verse, the words from our dear Minister very much blest to my dearest Benjamin, O may we ever praise the Lord for the joyful sound of the gospel ! – Very wet in the evening, I did not go out as it was my dear husbands request; Mary went to Chapel for the first time.

Saturday 25th. Benjⁿ went to Oakham on Monday, (Mr Burbidge could not attend on account of Mrs B.'s death), at Melton on Tuesday, returned home in the morning, Uppingham as usual, I dined at W^d Place on Wednesday, Chapel in evening, Papa at home all the week with bad cough.

40 The press described the occurrence as 'a very heavy discharge of electrical fluid' ; 'the wooden flooring nearly at the top of the spire ..(became).. ignited', .. 'but owing to the perseverance of the willing and anxious peasantry, water was carried up through the tower and spire amidst a suffocating smoke, and the fire extinguished'. The tall eighteenth century spire of King's Norton church was repaired but was struck again in 1850 with worse consequences and so taken down.

Sunday 26th. A day of remembrance indeed!! Chapel in the morning, truly blessed sermon from Romans 2nd C 4th verse, while in the house of God, the Almighty was pleased to bless me with a sweet overwhelming sense of his love to my soul, granting me that real repentance which the Lord alone can create in the heart; Oh! How great is the goodness of God to such a poor unworthy sinner! My dear husband very much encouraged in the evening; enjoyed calm and peaceful moments after Chapel speaking of the wonderful mercies of God. My dearest described all he had felt during the last few years. T[ext].E[vening]. Genesis 49th C 15th verse.

March 1843

Saturday 4th. I dines at Welford Place on Shrove Tuesday. Benjⁿ at Melton, he had pancakes with Mr Philips at 6 o'clock. I came home to meet him. Chapel on Wednesday, Text Timothy 1st L 3 C 14.15 verses. Benjⁿ at Uppingham, returned home on Thursday, delighted to see him again, my dearest kinder and more affectionate than ever !!

Sunday 5th. My dearest Benjⁿ very poorly, pain in the side came on in the night, went to Chapel in the morning, met Mr Throsby on our return, consulted him, he ordered liniment, my dearest did not go out in the evening. T.M. Revelation 3rd C 20th verse, very encouraging sermon, may the word from our dear Minister be "as bread cast upon the waters which shall be found after many days".

Saturday 11th. My dearest better on Monday, went to the Bank as usual, went to Uppingham on Tuesday (the Fair), did not return home until Thursday evening. I dined at W^d Place on Tuesday and spent the rest of the day there; on Friday Mrs Ogden came by Mail, we had tea at High Cross St., Benjn came afterwards and stayed supper; Mrs Ogden returned home on Saturday.

Sunday 12th. Chapel morning & evening, called at the Bell in the morning, Mr Lincoln there, invited him for dinner on Monday. Mr C. at home, two excellent sermons from the 3rd Chapter of Titus; in the morng (sic) 4th & 5th verses, evening 7th verse,

Blest are the souls that hear & know
The Gospels joyful sound
Peace shall attend the path they go,
And light their steps surround.

Saturday 18th. On Monday Mr Lincoln and Mr Cook dined with us at 5 o'clock, Chilly joined us, they left about 11. I had a pleasant walk with C. on Wednesday afternoon, Chapel in evening, Mr C. out on Thursday, began water coloured drawing. Mr Dexter dines with us on Saturday, Mr Hand arrived at Welford Place in evening.

Sunday 19th. May we bless & praise the name of the Almighty who hath once more permitted us to hear the sound of the ever blessed gospel, very excellent sermon in the morning, my dear Husband much encouraged, spoke of the stoney heart and of it being changed into a heart of flesh &c. &c. S.W. dined with us, Chapel in the evening.

Saturday 25th. The assizes, Chilly and I attended Court for a few hours on Thursday, on Friday Mrs Dibben came for tea and supper, expected Mr Dibben, he was prevented. Benjⁿ went his journeys as usual. Miss Broughton married⁴¹ on the 23rd, Benjⁿ attended the wedding.

Sunday 26th. Mr C. at Newark, Chapel morning and evening, very pleasant converse after Chapel in the evening, it is indeed a very great priviledge to be permitted to meet with those who worship God in sincerity and truth, and a still greater blessing to be favoured with the sound of the gospel, may these unspeakable mercies be long continued to us.

April 1843

On the 3rd of this month I and Charlotte went to Grantham, C. returned home on the 20th. I prolonged my stay on account of Eliza being very poorly, (misscarring). My dear husband came on Sunday 16th, we went to Belton on Monday, very delightful day, he left on Tuesday morning by Mail; much surprised on his arrival at Leicester to find the affairs at the Bank in a most precarious state; Mr Chamberlain came on the following Saturday 22nd, and brought the sad intelligence that the Bank had stopped payment in the morn^g⁴²; surprised indeed we all were to hear it, myself in very low spirits, wrote to Benjⁿ at night, impatient to be at home. Mr C. staid until Thursday, enjoyed his conversation much, very encouraging, we returned to Leicester on the 27th, I travelled by Railway Coach, found my dear husband in better spirits than I expect.

May 1843

Saturday 6th. A most anxious week indeed, one I shall never forget, in the greatest suspense, not knowing whether we should leave Leicester; Benjⁿ out of town every day, at Oakham on Monday, Melton and Uppingham as usual; offer from Mr Edmonds to appoint him manager at the Uppingham Bank⁴³ mentioned it to Benjⁿ first on the 16th of April, saw him again on Monday May 1st, agreed as to terms, Mr Lewis named the circumstance to Mr Philips, unexpected answer from Mr P. Benjⁿ felt it exceedingly, spoke to Mr P. himself on Friday; found matters had been misrepresented, Mr P. far more agreeable than expected, indeed Benjⁿ

41 The Leicester Chronicle, 25.3.43, has: 'On Thursday, at Uppingham, by the Rev. J. Dimocke, Mr R.Hopkins, Draper, to Emma, third daughter of the late Mr Broughton, Surgeon, Union-street, in this town'

42 According to White's History, gazetteer and directory of Leicestershire, ... Rutland 1846: 'The banking house of Messrs, Clarke, Mitchell, Phillips, and Smith, failed in April, 1843, and their debts amounted to about £540,000". This bank had branches in Leicester, Melton Mowbray, Oakham and Uppingham – the places which Benjamin visits in connection with his work – and also Lutterworth.

to go to Uppingham to solicit shares, travelled on horseback, did not return home until late on Saturday night, very stiff and tired with riding so far. May we be enabled to commit our way unto the Lord, for he hath promised to direct our paths.

Saturday 13. Another week has passed and nothing is yet decided, on Sunday 7th my dear husband was so exceedingly tired that he had breakfast in bed, was dressing, intending to go to Chapel when Mr Philips sent for him, was obliged to be at the Bank until dinner-time. Chapel together in the evening, (Ordinance). Benjⁿ went to Melton on Tuesday, returned home in rather better spirits, once more enjoyed a few minutes peace and quietude in the evening, my dearest went to Upping(ham) on Wednesday, came home on Thursday eveng, no house for us there, thought of going to lodgings for a time at Mr Hopes⁴⁴. On Friday the Fair, Mr & Mrs Dexter &c came for dinner, most unsettled day, Mr Smith very disagreeable with Benj. He wrote to Mr Edmond. Mr E. wrote a satisfactory answer to CMP&S⁴⁵, Benjⁿ went to Stamford, John drove him, they returned to Rolleston, did not arrive there until 3 o'clock in the morning, Benjⁿ stayed at Rolleston for dinner on Sunday, arrived home about 7 in the evening. (*Written*) Monday mornng 15.

Sunday 14th. I went to Chapel in the morning, truly blessed sermon from the 15th Ch of Exodus 13 v., received very great comfort and encouragement. A. W. dined with us, Mr Adshead came to tea, chapel in the evening, Benjⁿ at home when I returned, still quite unsettled about Uppingham. On Tuesday Benjⁿ went to Melton, Freer with him. I dined at W^d Place, Father and Mother in very low spirits, (Smiths of Chesterfield ⁴⁶), came home for tea, Mrs Ogden & Mrs Billings came on their way from Birmingham – stayed tea. Benjⁿ came home, several people waiting to see him, I went to Chapel, W^d Place for supper, dearest met me there, converse with Papa about his concern, could not succeed, my dear husband and self in very low spirits. Uppingham as usual, returned home in better spirits, and to the Bank on Friday 19th for the last time, left in the evening having been there nearly three and twenty years⁴⁷.

Sunday 21st. Chapel mornng (sic) and evening, Mr C. at the Isle of Ely, dined at Welford Place on Monday, my dear husband went to Rolleston, I met him on his return and rode home.

43 With the failure of Messrs Clarke, Mitchell, Phillips, and Smith, there remained only one bank in Uppingham, the Stamford, Spalding and Boston Banking Company; in White's History, gazetteer and directory of Leicestershire, ... Rutland, 1846, we find, under Rutland, Uppingham, Bankers: 'Stamford, Spalding, & Boston Banking Co. (draw on Barclay, Bevan, and Co.) B. C. Ogden, manager. Market place'. The same publication shows that Mr Orlando Edmonds was manager of the Leicester branch.

44 Probably William Hope, Chemist, who had his shop and residence at 15, High Street East (PNL)

45 i.e. Clarke, Mitchell, Phillips & Smith

46 Ebenezer Smith & Co., iron and brass founders (& steam engine makers), Adelphi & Calow works. As we shall see, Benjamin Cort had a stake in the Adelphi works.

47 This implies that he had joined this bank in 1821, at the age of 15.

Tuesday 23rd. Benjⁿ went to Melton, commenced business for the New Branch, came home in the evening. I dined at W^d Place, he came to supper; Mrs T. and family arrived in the morning by Mail; on Wednesday Benjⁿ went to Uppingham to take up his abode, his first day of business there for the Stamford Bank; did not expect him until Saturday, most agreeably surprised to see him on Friday evening; Mr Law and Mrs Ogden came on Saturday, dined with us, very busy day for Benjⁿ, several calls &c &c, did not come home until 11 o'clock.

Saturday 28th. Chapel morning and evening, Mr C. at the Isle, dined at Welford Place, Benjⁿ returned to Uppingham in the eveng (sic), on Tuesday received note from Benjⁿ wishing me to call at Philips's, saw Mrs & Miss Philips and M. A. appeared as well as might be expected: dined at W^d Place, Mr Hand arrived in the eveng; on Wednesday Charlotte, myself and Joe went to Rolleston for the day, on Friday Mamma, Mrs T, C, H. H. & Joe came for tea, walked afterwards, caught in the rain. On Saturday my beloved husband returned, delighted indeed to see him again; had several calls to make, met at W^d Place for supper, Mr T. arrived at night.

June 1843 *(Six pages of recipes are placed between entries for June 4th and 7th)*

Sunday June 4th. Chapel in the mornng, very encouraging sermon from St Luke 8th C 15th v., dined at W^d Place, tremendous rain, Chapel in Fly at night, at home for supper, Benjⁿ called upon Mr Philips, Mr Scott supped with us. Monday My dear husband went to Uppingham – by coach – to leave me for another week, I dined at W^d Place, Eliza, Henry and family &c. had tea with me.

Wednesday 7th. A year has now elapsed since we were united in that sacred tie, which nothing but death can separate; and we may indeed say, that “the mercies of the Lord have been received every morning, his faithfulness every night”; yet although our kind Heavenly Father has granted us many great blessings, we have not been without troubles, these teach us more and more how uncertain are all earthly comforts; and now it is the will of the Almighty to remove us from this place, where we hoped to pass many years; a great trial it is to each of us, for to the eye of sense, the change appears to be against us, particuly as it regards our spiritual welfare, but seeing we, with the eye of faith, be enabled to trust in our allwise God; who hath promised that all shall work for good to those whom He hath taught to believe in Him.

Saturday June 10th. My dear husband went to Uppingham on Monday 5th did not return home until Saturday, consequently we were separated on the first anniversary of our wedding day. On Tuesday M. A. Sargeant dined with me, on Wednesday received note and chain from L. Broughton, dined at Welford Place, chapel in the eveng, Benjⁿ returned home on Saturday evening, rode a new horse John had purchased for him.

Sunday 11th. A truly blessed day, Chapel morning and evening, a very encouraging sermon in the evening which I hope never to forget, T.M. Psalm 119th, T.E. Isaiah 53rd 6th v., I desire to feel truly thankful to the Almighty who hath thus guarded me until now, may I be ever grateful for all the mercies I have received. And may He be our God and Guide even unto our lives end.

Saturday 17th. This week I went to Uppingham for the first time, travelled to Tugby on Wednesday by Mail; Mr Ogden took me forward on Thursday in his gig, dined at Mr Laws, decided upon taking rooms at Mrs Towells⁴⁸, my dear husband returned to Tugby with us in the evening, very beautiful evening, enjoyed the ride much, he left the following morning. Mother brought me to Leicester, stayed until Saturday evening, Benjⁿ came home about 6 o'clock. W. Ellis came, proposed for him to remove the furniture.

Sunday 18th. Chapel morning and evening, dined at Welford Place, Eliza and family still there, poor Edward Chamberlain⁴⁹ very ill, Mr C. called at W^d Place after chapel. T.M. James 4th 7th – 8th verses.

Saturday 24th. I went to Rolleston with John in his gig, Benjⁿ and Miss Law met us there on Sunday, Mr & Mrs Dexter and Mr & Mrs Falkner came for dinner, & Joseph; had a row on the water on Monday, Benjⁿ left early in the morning, we went to Tugby in afternoon, looked over the New Hall, returned to Leicester after tea, Miss Law stayed the week with me, walked to the Abbey Gardens on Tuesday evening, dined at Welford Place on Wednesday, Chilly dined with us on Thursday, had row on the water in the evening, Benjⁿ came home on Saturday July 1st, expected Mr Bell⁵⁰, he could not come.

July 1843

Sunday July 2nd. Chapel morning and evening, A. Wilkinson dined with us, Mr Adshead came for tea, truly blessed day, Edward C. not expected to live many hours, our dear Minister spoke as being perfectly resigned to the will of God. T.M. James 6 11th.

Saturday 9th. Very busy all the week packing up, Miss Law left on Monday with Benjⁿ in the gig, letter from Mrs Dexter on Tuesday, decided upon having the Drawing Room furniture.

Saturday 15th. The past week has been a memorable one indeed, Monday & Tuesday finished packing the furniture, on Wednesday it was loaded ready to start; at 8 o'clock on the same day 12th inst I took my farewell of dear old Leicester, Chilly & Mary with me, Mr Chapman drove us in a car arrived at Mr Hopes at 7 o'clock, stayed there all night; on Thursday 13th expected the Vans at 9 in the morning, in the greatest suspense until 4 in the afternoon, when three of

48 Margaret Towell was the wife of George Towell, sometime innkeeper and, by then, grazier. They had 7 children at the 1841 census and lived on the south side of High Street near the western end. The property let to the Ogdens was probably on the current site of Lorne House, Uppingham School. (PNL)

49 The 17-year-old son of the Strict Baptist minister, Joseph Chamberlain and his wife Jane. They had five other children.

50 Leonard Bell, wine and spirit merchant and landlord of 'The Vaults', previously the premises of Clarke, Philips, Mitchell & Smith, seems to have become, round about this time, landlord to the Stamford & Spalding Banking Co. in the same premises (PNL). Mr Bell, referred to here, may alternatively be his son Samuel, then aged 36, also identified as a wine and spirit merchant in the 1841 census, who seems to have taken on responsibilities from his 76-year-old father.

them arrived, the men bringing the sad intelligence that one of the horses had run away, the Van overturned, and the man seriously hurt; felt much shocked to hear of so distressing an occurrence, how uncertain are all things in this world of change, it is indeed true that we know not what a day may bring. On Friday 14th went to Leicester, Mrs Hope with me, went to Ellis's also to see the man at the Infirmary, arrived at Uppingham about seven; during our absence Chilly and Benjⁿ had arranged most of the furniture, very busy until late at night, finished on Saturday 15th and took up our abode at Mr Towells at a late hour 11 o'clock, very thankful to be so far settled.

(Anyone kindly considering commenting on the Residence in Leicester is invited to read at least the introduction to the Uppingham section which follows.)

Part 2: Benjamin & Sarah Ogden are resident at Uppingham

(A commentary and notes on individuals mentioned in Part 2 of the diary, compiled by Uppingham historian Peter Lane, are given in an Appendix.)

Before continuing with the story of Benjamin and Sarah, it will be helpful to take a look at the affairs of Sarah's father, which feature increasingly in Part 2.

According to the Victoria County History of Leicestershire, the Corts were an old Leicestershire farming family, traceable back to a John Cort who held land at Great Bowden in the 15th century. In 1784, James Cort, son of Benjamin Cort, grazier of Smeeton, was apprenticed to Alderman Price, ironmonger and cutler, of Leicester.

By 1793, James had become established as a master ironmonger, with a business in the Market Place, and in 1799 he established the first successful iron foundry in Leicester, on the canal bank at the Public Wharf in Belgrave Gate. Within two years, he was beginning to emerge as an engineer of promise, selling his own 'patent winnowing machine'. He opened the Britannia Foundry, took in partners William Watts and his brother Benjamin, and took on apprentices. The Britannia Foundry was the principal foundry of the town during the first half of the nineteenth century, supplying parts for the metal frames required by the flourishing hosiery trade, and making the first gas lamps for the town in 1821, but, by 1827, there were five firms described as iron and brass founders in Leicester.

With the construction of the Leicester & Swannington railway in 1832, there was an increase in demand for castings and Cort had a tender accepted for the supply of malleable iron rails and keys: 'One hundred tons of rails were delivered early in October and arrangements made for 40 tons to be received on the 1st of each month from December (1830) onwards until further notice'. No local foundry had facilities for making locomotives but Cort helped George Stephenson to remedy a defect in the celebrated 'Samson' by making and fitting two trailing wheels. By 1840, Leicester was connected by rail with Derby and the north.

The Victoria County History goes so far as to describe James and Benjamin Cort as the 'fathers of Leicester's great engineering industry', but there were difficult economic conditions in the late 1830s and early 1840s and the Corts were nearing the ends of their careers with no sons eager and able to continue the work.⁵¹

The 1841 Pigot & Co, directory shows Cort, Jas & Benjamin, Belgrave Gate, as iron and brass founders, and as Ironmongers, Iron & Steel merchants and Jewellers & Silversmiths, Cort & Co., Market Place, Leicester.

White's directory of 1844 for Nottingham shows Benjamin Cort & Co at Rutland Street as Steam Engine builders and, at Rutland Foundry, Granby Street, as Iron and Brass Founders, Bar Iron and Steel merchants, Machine-makers, Millwrights & Engineers; the 1848 edition of Lascelles and Hagar's directory has his firm as also Agricultural Implement makers, at Canal Street, near Carrington Bridge, whilst the Post Office directory of the next year, in connection with the Rutland Foundry, lists

⁵¹The paragraphs above are based on an essay entitled 'Leicester Foundries in the early nineteenth century' by G. T. Rimmington, on <http://www.le.ac.uk/lahs/downloads/RimmingtonPagesfromsmvolumeXXXV-6.pdf>

them as 'ornamental stove, fender, improved kitchen range manufacturers, & also of heating apparatus by steam & warm water'.

Samuel Bagshaw's History, gazetteer and directory of Derbyshire... 1846 has, at p.672, under Duckmanton, which is near Chesterfield: 'The Adelphi Ironworks are situated at the N.W. extremity of the village of Duckmanton; and the Duckmanton coal company's colliery a little N.W. from the village.' Listed at the bottom of the page are the Adelphi Iron Company and 'Cort Benjamin, Esq. Lodge'. Ebenezer Smith & Co., iron and brass founders (& steam engine makers), appear to have been the proprietors of the Adelphi & Calow works, with Benjamin Cort having a major stake of some sort in the Adelphi Works.

But let us now rejoin Benjamin & Sarah Ogden in Uppingham:

Monday 31st July, 1843. We now begin to feel settled in our new home, more comfortable than I anticipated, Chilly stayed with me until 29th when Benjⁿ drove us in a double gig to Leicester, Mamma at Grantham, Edward still living but sinking fast, Mr C. able to preach; very much enjoyed the day, returned home early on Monday morning.

August 1843

On the 3rd of this month Edward Chamberlain breathed his last, a severe bereavement indeed to his affectionate parents.

Wednesday 9th. Very heavy storms in various parts, very violent here and at Leicester, serious accident by a fireball entering a house at Stamford⁵²; 12th Benjⁿ went to Rolleston, returned on Sunday morning (stocktaking). Monday 14th Mamma came by Mail and stayed a week, (C. at Wellingboro') enjoyed her company much, had several rides &c. We went to Leicester on Saturday 19th, Mamma with us, Chilly returned home the same evening, Benjⁿ left on Monday for Melton fair, Mamma poorly, I stayed a week, Benjⁿ came again on Saturday 26th, we arrived home early on Monday morning. An anonymous letter to welcome us. Tuesday 29th went to Mr Bensons⁵³ for tea and supper, Mr & Mrs Hope there, Mrs Benson is indeed a wonderful woman for her age, 92, she sat up until 12 o'clock, very lively and amusing, favoured us with a song.

52 The Northampton Mercury of 5.8.1843 says the fire-ball completely wrecked a house 'at the back of North-street'. It was occupied by 'an industrious plasterer named Eusebius Beale, who at the time of the visitation was at dinner with his ... wife and five children' who were miraculously uninjured.

53 Mrs Ann Benson was mother of Charles Benson, surgeon, of 8, High Street West. In the 1841 census her age is given as 85 – perhaps a deliberate underestimate! (PNL)

September 1843

Wednesday 4th. Papa came to Uppingham, Benjⁿ accompanied him to Stamford. Thursday they returned in the evening, Papa left on Friday morning. Mrs Benson died very suddenly, was as well as usual in the evening previous and expired at 4 o'clock in the morning, how true it is that in the midst of life we are in death. May we be prepared for this great change whenever it may come.

Saturday 9th. My dear husband drove me to Leicester, had a pleasant day on Sunday, once more favoured with the privilege of hearing our dear Minister. Benjⁿ returned home in the evening, Charlotte went to Shilton⁵⁴; on Monday Mamma and I went to Shilton, Mr W. brought the carriage for us, returned on Wednesday, chapel in the evening; E. & H. came on Friday 15th. My beloved husband arrived on Saturday evening, took me to Melton on Monday, reached home in evening.

October 1843

Sunday 1st. Benjⁿ went to Leicester on Saturday, S. Wilkinson returned with him on Sunday afternoon, to spend a little time with us, on Thursday (5th) my dear husband drove us to Rolleston, returned next morning at 10 o'clock.

Saturday 7th. Chilly came by mail, very glad to see her, on the 13th Mr & Mrs Dexter dined with us, we returned to Langton with them in the carriage, and stayed until Monday; my dear Hubby with us on Sunday. Saturday 21st Chilly and S. Wilkinson left, they went by coach at half past one, enjoyed their company very much indeed. 23rd Mr Bensons sale, I bought the blackbird and cage.

Thursday 26th. My beloved husband and self started off quite unexpectedly to Grantham, very pleasant journey in gig, and most welcome reception; on Friday, a beautiful day, had a drive to Belvoir, Woolsthorp &c. Stayed until Thursday, the weather unfortunately very unfavourable.

November 1843

Thursday 5th. My dear husband and self left Grantham and travelled in gig to Leicester, arrived quite unexpectedly, found Mamma and Chilly were gone out for tea, very kindly welcomed when they returned, my dearest Benjⁿ stayed until Sunday afternoon, many disasters when he arrived home; on the 9th sent my dearest a bible for a birthday present. On the 18th my good husband came and returned again on Sunday afternoon; very encouraging sermon in the mornng from St Luke 19th C. 5th v. T.E. Colossians 3 C. 12 v. On the 19th Henry Hand also came, and spent a few days, he went to Grantham on Tuesday, and came again on Thursday, returned to London by Mail train on Friday night; have had a little

⁵⁴ Shilton is five miles north-east of Coventry; the Adsheads seem to have lived there.

opportunity of judging his character; may I never have cause to alter the opinion I have now formed. On Monday returned home after an absence of a month, very happy to be once more quietly settled, enjoying the society of my dearest Beloved.

December 1843

The last month in the 1843 nothing very particular has occurred, passed our time very quietly at home with the exception of Christmas day; went to Tugby in gig on Saturday evening, had our new lamps. Church on Sunday, family party for dinner on Monday (Xmas day), reached home at night. I must not omit to remark the alarm I experienced on Tuesday 19th: my dear husband went to Melton as usual, I expected him a 5 o'clock, waited in the greatest suspense 4 hours, sent man & horse to meet him, at length he arrived at 9, Mr Edmonds with him, both safe and well, a meeting had detained them, Mr E. stayed all night.

Sunday 31st The last day of the year, which did not pass unnoticed, we met with the little flock, a portion as read which reminded us of the last great day, exhorting each to be prepared. In the morning we recalled many events which have taken place during the present year, we closed it with grateful praise to the Almighty for the numerous blessings received thro'out.

January 1844

Memorandum January 1st 1844. We again commence another year, not without a sincere prayer to our Almighty Father, entreating his kind protection and guidance and that we may daily grow in grace & in the knowledge of the truth, desiring to be less anxious for the things of this life, and to be prepared for another and a better world. My old friend M. A. S. spent a little time with us, she came on the 8th and returned home on the 23rd. On the 18th a letter from Charlotte saying Papa had received a letter from Mr Elsum stating that Robert had encountered a dangerous affray in a vessal (sic) going from Penang, the Captain was murdered, and several wounded, Robert was preserved, and arrived at Bombay with the care of the goods, this occurred (sic) in Sept^{ber}, it is strange indeed we have had no letter from him, should fear he thinks very little of those kind friends he has left.

February 1844

Thursday 1st. A very harassing day to my dear husband, important business obliged him to go to Stamford hastily and unexpect(edl)y about 12 O'clock, did not reach home until 7, on his arrival, a second letter from Christie requesting him to pay £22 . 0. 0., a false debt. Benjⁿ wrote to Christie and Papa, the debt proved to be John Ogdens for horses.

I would here remark that this is the first week of winter this season, for hitherto it has been mild indeed; on Wednesday we had the first appearance of snow, Thursday it ceased, sharp frost, Friday morning 2nd found there had been a great deal of snow in the night, it continued all day, Saturday again, Sunday morning we again found much snow had fallen in the night, it continued nearly all day consequently became rather deep in some places. The beautiful full moon shining upon our white world afforded a most splendid scene. Written Monday 5th.

Blest soul, that can say, "Christ only I seek"
Wait for him always, be constant, tho' weak.
The Lord whom thou seekest, will not tarry long,
And to him the weakest us dear as the strong.

Thursday 8th. A general meeting of the Directors of the Stamford Banking C^{oy} at Stamford, Mr Newcombs affair discussed.

Monday 12th. Received two letters written from Bombay by Robert to Mother and Father wherein he alludes to the terrible affray which occurred in Sept', but writes the particulars to Joe, the reason he gives for not writing sooner is the hurry in which he left Bombay for Penang. He appears undecided in what occupation to enter but has some thoughts of taking a situation under government, writes very respectfully to his parents and wishes for their advice.

Tuesday 13th. Had a pleasant walk to Ayston, the country appeared beautiful, the snow still on the ground, sharp frost, and the trees and hedges covered with white rime assuming a splendid appearance, the sun daily causing it to thaw, and the frost every night, made it very slippery.

Wednesday 14th. Today we have quite a change, it begins to thaw very fast, the snow and frost has continued exactly a fortnight.

Thursday 15th. My dear husband went to Hallaton to consult with Mr & Mrs Dexter &c. respecting Mr Billings taking Mr Westons Boarding house, undecided, wished to go to London, this was on Friday.

Saturday 17th. Mr Edwards dined with us.

Sunday 18th. Benjⁿ went to Tugby for dinner to have some converse respecting Mr Billings and family, came home at half past 7.

Tuesday 20th. Shrove Tuesday. Intended to have pancakes when dear Hubby returned from Melton, but he was so late that we had them on Thursday instead; it snowed in the morning, very frosty night.

Saturday 24th. Very sharp frost every night since Tuesday, snowed in the afternoon but afterwards turned to rain.

Sunday 25th. Not so cold, rained very fast all day which coming upon the snow made it very slippery.

Monday 26th. A great change today, very mild with showers, but cold again at night.

Tuesday 27th. The most unfavourable day my dear husband has had for his Melton journey this season, snowed in the mornng, very high wind, excessively cold, and sharp frost at night.

Thursday 29th. My dear husband started on his journey to London, respecting Chas Billings business. I went with him in the gig to Leicester, set off at 6 o'clock, arrived there for breakfast. Benjⁿ went forward by the 12 o'clock train, he slept at J Adamss⁵⁵, but spent most of his time in Town⁵⁶, the only places he had time to see were the East India House, Surry gardens & British Museum, the weather favourable; he returned to Leicester on Saturday, March 2nd and home on Sunday afternoon, found six invalids at Mrs Towels, I stayed until Saturday the 9th, John brought the gig for me, Benjⁿ met me Tugby, we arrived home at 8 o'clock, I had severe cold.

March 1844

Saturday 16th. This week I have been confined to the house with severe cold &c., my dear husband very very kind and attentive, with his excellent nursing am thankful to say I am now quite well. The business between Mr J. Weston and Chas Billings settled this week, the agreement drawn up and signed, the Stock Sale took place on Friday 15th.

Sunday 19th. My dear husband in bed for breakfast, enjoyed a sweet season in the morning, while reading the word of God, was blest with a sweet sense of the love of God to my soul, and a confirmed hope that my dear husband will, in the Lord's time be thus favored (sic), my heart overflowing with gratitude to our kind Heavenly Father when I recount his boundless mercies.

Sunday 31st. Very beautiful Spring weather commenced on Thursday, my dear husband and self had a pleasant walk on the fields. Chapel morning and afternoon, Mr Gamble⁵⁷ engaged in prayer, much surprised, may we be enabled to deserve the true spirit of prayer.

55 i.e. in Birmingham, on his way to London

56 i.e. in London

57 According to the return of the Registrar of the Diocese of Peterborough to the Registrar of Births, Marriages and Deaths in 1852 (RG31/4, The National Archives), Thomas Gamble and others registered 'a building' in Uppingham as a place of worship, denomination unspecified, in 1845. Gamble was a saddler of 1 & 3 High Street East and the denomination was Strict Baptist. (PNL)

April 1844

Good Friday. I and Benjⁿ went to Leicester, expected Mr Goldsmith would accompany us, but he was prevented, very pleasant weather, Chilly at Grantham. Mrs T. confined 25 March, Mamma being alone and very poorly I staid with her until Monday 15th when she returned with me to Uppingham, spent a week with us, enjoyed dear mothers company much, had several pleasant walks together, on Friday my dear husband drove us to Hallaton, went to the little chapel. On Sunday, Mr Gamble read &c. On Monday Mrs Hart⁵⁸ came to tea, Mamma left us on the following day Tuesday 23rd. On Wednesday 24th Mr Edmonds came to dinner, beautiful weather still continues, no rain since March 27th, very warm in the middle of the day, cool in the mornings, very busy attending to our little garden, sowing seeds &c. &c. April 16 The day on which our friend Ann Williamson was united to Mr Charles Adshead⁵⁹, we received cards and gloves.

May 1844

Wednesday 1st. The children reminded us of May day by bringing their May boughs, a very lovely day.

Thursday 2nd. Mr Deacon came to tune the piano, Mr Edwards & Mr Hopkins⁶⁰ also employed him.

Friday 3rd. My dear husband was obliged to go to Oakham on business, Saturday he went to Stamford to settle the same.

Sunday 5th. I had bad cold, in bed nearly all day, my dearest read to me in the morning.

Monday 6th. In bed for breakfast, cold better.

Thursday 9th. My good husband and Mr Hope went to Rolleston for a day's rook shooting, Mr Law joined them in the afternoon, had a great day's sport, killed 6 dozen rooks.

Friday 10th. Rain now begins to be much wanted, some appearance of it during the day, rained in the evening.

Saturday 11th. Some rain in the night but quite fair again today, Mr Bell went from home with his Father.

58 Either Ann Hart (aged 62 and roughly contemporary of Sarah's mother), wife of George Hart, a long-established grocer in Uppingham, or her daughter-in-law, Ann Hart (aged 35 and roughly contemporary of Sarah), wife of William Garner Hart, son of George and Ann. (PNL)

59 In the 1851 census, Charles Adshead described himself as 'General Commission Agent (Foreign)'

60 John Edwards is listed in White's directory of 1846 as one of three surgeons with address High Street, Uppingham. He was assistant to Charles Benson. William Hopkins and his sons William and Benjamin were drapers and tailors at 24 and 26 High Street West. (PNL)

Sunday 12th. Chapel in the morning – beautiful day. Mr Johnson came, stayed dinner & tea.

Tuesday 14th. Mr Goldsmith came to attend in Mr Bell's absence, had breakfast with me, Benjⁿ at Melton, Mr G. staid tea, left about 8 o'clock.

Wednesday 15th. Mr Edmonds came to dinner.

Thursday 16th. Hallaton fair, Benjⁿ & Mr Law went over for tea & supper, home late.

Saturday 18th. Benjⁿ went to Rolleston, had an accident which might have proved very serious, the mare slipped and fell, throwing her rider some distance; it is indeed owing to a merciful providence my dear husband was not killed.

Sunday 19th. Benjⁿ in bed nearly all day, I went to Chapel in afternoon.

Monday 20th. My dear husband still very stiff, but able to go to Oakham in the gig.

Thursday 23rd. My dear husband very much better, John came over in afternoon, we drove to Hallaton in the evening, enjoyed it very much.

Saturday 25th. Mrs Law called, I walked with her to Beaumont Chase, had tea there. Benjn & Mr Law came after tea and walked home with us.

June 1844

This has been a memorable month, and first I would note the merciful kindness of our gracious God in sending refreshing rain upon the parched ground; previously it has truly been a fearful time, having had no rain since March, the Almighty works in a wonderful way to cause his creatures to own their entire dependance upon him; may we with others watch the operation of his hand, ascribing all glory to our God. May our hearts overflow with gratitude to him who thus watereth the earth, causing the tender herb to spring forth, and may Holy Spirit in like manner shed his sweet influence in our hearts, that the seed there sown may bring forth precious fruit.

O that man would
Praise the Lord for his goodness
And for his wonderful works
To the children of men

Sunday 2nd. Spent the day at Leicester on Saturday previous. Mr Ingram took me in his gig. Mamma had just returned from Grantham when I arrived, Charlotte in London.

Monday 3rd. I went to Shilton with Mr & Mrs Adshead in the carriage, stayed there until Thursday morning, Charlotte and Mr Hand returned to Lester on Tuesday 4th, surprised us by coming to Shilton on Wednesday. Took a last farewell of Mrs Adshead, she left her native land with her husband on the 18th⁶¹; they have my most sincere wishes, may the Almighty go forth with them and bless them with every comfort, but more especially may he lead and guide them in the only way of salvation, and grant them every spiritual blessing.

Saturday 8th. My dear husband came to Leicester and we returned home together on Sunday eveng.

Thursday 20th. After some consideration and arrangement the business of the Foundry was given into the hands of Mr Paul and Mr J. Cort Sen^r⁶². May we be thankful that our dear father is so far extricated.

Monday 17th. On this day we gladly welcomed the first refreshing rain.

Tuesday 18th. Rained very fast all day, heavy showers on Wednesday, Mr Edmonds came to dinner, showery on Thursday, fair on Sunday and Monday 23rd & 24th and very warm, in the evening we went to Mr Edwards to tea, I took a sketch of the house.

Tuesday 25th. Beautiful rain again, continued heavily all day, afterwards fair to the end of the week.

Tuesday 29th. Finished the drawing of Mr Edward's house, Miss Towell⁶³ home for the holidays, she drew with me, made a drawing of St Martin's Church. On Thursday I had a delightful ride with my dear husband enjoyed it exceedingly, called upon the Rev^d M. Hutton of Seaton and Mrs Stokes of Thorpe⁶⁴, on our return a letter from Charlotte containing very unpleasant news. Thus our joys are marred, every earthly pleasure is indeed short lived and unsatisfying. May we then seek those joys which never fade away.

July 1844

Saturday July 6th. My dear husband drove me to Leicester in the gig, rained the whole of the way; Eliza, Henry & children were there, all in very low spirits, particularly dear Father.

61 They were certainly back again by August 1845, wherever they went.

62 i.e. Britannia Foundry, Leicester. However this partnership was evidently not a success and was dissolved in April 1845, being succeeded by a partnership between James Cort and Joseph Bell from a Kent foundry, as advertised in the Leicester Journal.

63 Charlotte, 18-year-old daughter of George & Margaret Towell, George Towell being the Ogden's landlord.

64 Probably Thorpe-by-water

Sunday 7th. Chapel in the morning, very encouraging sermon from Phil 8. My dear husband enjoyed it much, spoke to Mr C. afterwards, in the vestry, may we feel truly thankful for even a ray of light and comfort, for he has indeed been very much cast down lately. Benjⁿ returned home in the evening, I stayed the week, a very trying time indeed. Mr T. went home on Monday came again on Wednesday. Mr Smith & Elsam came the same day, arrangements were at length made with Mr J. Cort respecting Chesterfield⁶⁵, thankful for a little relief, on Saturday morning a paper from Paris's, never shall we forget this day, my dear husband came in the evening, Mr Thompson at night, may he be enabled to devise some plan for dear Father.

Sunday 14th. Chapel morning and evening, very blessed discourse in the evening, I and Benjⁿ started off home after chapel at 8 o'clock, little expecting the danger we had to encounter. How true it is, we know not what an hour may bring forth. Oh the uncertainty of all things here below, this week and this night have proved it indeed; upon arriving within five miles of Uppingham, we met a wagon heavily laden, the horse took fright; started off some distance, and began kicking in a furious manner. My dear husband at length succeeded in checking it when a man seized her head, we instantly jumped out behind and after recovering ourselves we proceeded onward on foot, the person, (Mr Goodwin) and Benjⁿ leading the horse, myself following behind. We reached home about 12 o'clock, not a little fatigued with the alarm and walk, it was indeed an unspeakable mercy we were not both killed; the gig very much injured.

August 1844

Saturday Aug^t 3rd. I went to Leicester, Mr Ingram took me in his gig, very heavy storm before we arrived. I stayed a fortnight, Henry Hand came for a few days, very uncomfortable and trying time, the shop business in a most unsettled state; Mr Thompson came several times, expecting day after day something would be settled; it is indeed a great mercy to be enabled to place our whole trust and confidence in the Almighty for he alone can support us in every trial and will in his own good time make a way of escape, may the Lord give us help from trouble for vain is the help of man. Dear Mother in very low spirits, I persuaded her to return with me on Monday 19th, Thomas drove us round about 3 o'clock; Mamma very much better for the change, had some pleasant walks and rides together, stayed until the 12th of Sept^{br}, very nervous and poorly the latter part of her visit.

September 1844

Sept^{br}. The beginning of this month we shall not easily forget, poor Mother still with us, expected Mr & Mrs Thompson on Thursday 5th, important business detained them at Leicester; letter from E. which very much distressed dear Mother.

⁶⁵ Perry's Bankrupt Gazette, 8.11.1845, has: Smith Benjamin, William Elsam, Benjamin Cort, William Yelverton, and Harriet Smith, Ironmasters, Sutton cum Duckmanton, Derbyshire, 7th July. Debts by Elsam, Cort, Yelverley (sic), and H.Smith.

Saturday 7th. The shop business⁶⁶ at length settled, this day Mr J. Cort and Mr Law take possession, may we feel thankful matters have thus terminated. Poor dear Mother much cast down, may the Lord grant submission to his sovereign will, and although it is indeed a great trial, may we be enabled to acknowledge his delivering hand; and may that support and comfort be granted to our dear parents, promised to those who follow the Lord, granting strength equal to the day.

As part of Benjamin Cort's withdrawal from the Market Place business, some spare capacity became available, and the following advertisement appeared in the Leicestershire Mercury of 26.7.1845:

To be sold or let, with immediate possession if required:

An eligible Four-story DWELLING HOUSE, adjoining the Shop of Messrs Cort, Law, & Co., Market-place, consisting of Dining, Drawing, and two smaller Rooms, seven excellent Bed ditto, fitted up with Chimney-pieces, Register Stoves, Bells, &c., a Private Entrance Hall, and a Front Shop, with Folding Doors, a Window in three compartments, glazed with best Plate Glass, wind-up Patent Shutters, and Window Shades; a Kitchen and Scullery, with improved Cookery Apparatus, and Copper Furnace; Hard and Soft Water, and Ball Cistern; a Pantry, Larder, Beer, Wine, and Coal Cellars, and a place for shoe cleaning; a Water Closet in each of the three lower floors, and a part of the above rooms fitted for Gas Lights. Apply to MR BENJAMIN CORT, Welford-place, Leicester

Sunday 8th. An unforeseen change in our little chapel, John Wade absent occasioned by a dissatisfaction with the sermons read by Mr Hart⁶⁷ & Mr Falkner; on the following Sunday he was also absent.

Saturday 14th. Miss Charlotte Towell⁶⁸ arrived home with her Gent, Mr Corsar, they invited us to dinner on Sunday, and spent Monday evening with us.

Wednesday 18th. This day we shall ever remember with pleasure, being favored with the company of our dear Minister⁶⁹, he arrived for breakfast, afterwards I walked with him to Mrs Harts, we dined together. Benjⁿ did not come home until 7 o'clock, he spoke very freely to Mr C., and enjoyed his society exceedingly, may his valuable conversation be deeply impressed upon our minds. Our welcome visitor left us after breakfast the following morning.

Thursday 19th. We fully expected Mr & Mrs T. but were again disappointed.

66 White's directory of 1846 has: Cort, Law & Co., Ironmongers, silversmiths, and seed, cake, oil &c merchants, Market Place. It appears that there was a brief period when Benjamin Cort and James Cort junior were partners, prior to Benjamin Cort withdrawing in favour of Mr Law. (See Leicester Journal 27.9.1844 and Sheffield Independent 19.10.1844). Mr Law was John Quincy Law, previously of Uppingham. (PNL)

67 This is unlikely to be George Hart, grocer, or his son William because the family were Congregationalists. As will be seen later, there was another George Hart who was an active member of the Bethesda Chapel. (PNL)

68 18-year-old daughter of George and Margaret Towell; George Towell being the Ogdens' landlord

69 It seems significant that the Ogdens did not arrange for their Leicester minister, Mr Chamberlain, to preside at an Uppingham chapel meeting; also that he dined with the Harts, not at the Gambles or Wades who are not even mentioned as guests.

Thursday 24th. Eliza and Henry arrived in the evening quite unexpectedly, while we were at tea, Miss Hope⁷⁰ with us, on Wednesday 25th we took a survey of the town & walked to Ayston, they left by the coach for Leicester at half past one.

Thursday 26th. Brother Joe and Stephen Chapman came for dinner. I walked with Joe to Ayston in the morning, they returned together after tea, Mr Hope came for tea.

Friday 27th. Mr Falkner called, had a long conversation respecting the little chapel, he declines taking a part in the service, we feel it exceedingly as the subjects he read have often proved a comfort to my dear husband and myself also; on the 22nd John Wade opened a meeting at his own house, we attended the chapel in the morning, but in the afternoon one there; these things cause us some concern as we have often enjoyed meeting together, may we be enabled to leave it with the Lord, and seeking closer communion with him, knowing he hath promised to be a little sanctuary to his people whosoever they are⁷¹.

Sept^b 28th. My dear husband desires me to note this morning; after breakfast he read 22C of Ezekiel, was sweetly led forth in prayer, and was blest with true peace.

October 1844

Sunday 6th. My dear husband very poorly during the week with cold, sore throat &c., had Mr Edwards⁷²; by his desire I note this morning it has indeed been a blessed time, before breakfast he felt much concerned respecting the chapel, together with many doubts and fears lest he has no part in the best things, afterwards we read and joined in prayer, the Almighty granting that free access at a throne of grace which ever brings peace and comfort; we do indeed feel truly grateful for this token for good.

Thursday 16th. Several friends came quite unexpectedly; Mr C. Billings from London, a long standing debt settled; Mr & Mrs Dexter afterwards arrived followed by John Ogden, they all stayed dinner; my dear husband in unusual good spirits, enjoyed the family party much.

Monday 14th. Charlotte and Mr Hand came by the afternoon coach, very glad to see them, on Thursday went to Hallaton with them, returned home for dinner, not very good sport, a brace of birds.

70 Presumably a daughter (Mary, 15, or Charlotte, 12) of William and Mary Ann Hope; William Hope being the chemist and druggist of 15, High Street.

71 John Wade, cooper, lived in North Street. During the Ogdens' residence in Uppingham, he took over from Thomas Gamble as the dominant personality in the Strict Baptist community, the quarrel between them causing much unhappiness, to Sarah particularly, in the process.

72 John Edwards is listed in White's directory of 1846 as one of three surgeons with address High Street, Uppingham. He was assistant to Charles Benson. (PNL)

Saturday 20th. Went to Stamford, Mr Benson drove; Benjⁿ rode Grey, saw Burleigh House, dined at the Sun, beefstakes and oyster sauce, rather wet day but fair for our ride there and home again.

Thursday 24th. Benjⁿ, Mr Hand and Mr Benson went to Hallaton and Rolleston rabbit catching, brought home a couple, very wet day for the sport, still they enjoyed it and returned home in famous good spirits.

Monday 28th. Charlotte, Henry Hand and self started off to Grantham, arrived there in afternoon quite unexpectedly, very kindly welcomed, intended to return on Wednesday, could not on account of rain, reached home on Thursday for dinner, enjoyed our trip much; found dear Benjⁿ had been very poorly in our absence, still far from well. Mr Hand and Charlotte stayed until Wednesday Nov^{br} 6th, travelled home together by coach; a very pleasant time; but the weather for the most part unfavourable.

November 1844

Nov^b 8th. Friday John Ogden and Mr Dexter came in the afternoon, my dear husband in good spirits intending to go to Stamford next morning, but about 12 o'clock at night was taken very ill, violent pain attended with sickness &c., about 4 I called Mary, we made a fire and gave him some tea, sent for Mr Edwards at 5, he stayed till 7, thankful indeed we were to find the medicine relieved him, not able to get up the whole of Saturday and Sunday, on Monday rather better, was up for a few hours, Mr Goldsmith came in the evening from Oakham, slept here. Tuesday my dear husband decidedly better, Mr G arrived again from Melton, stayed all night. Thursday Mr Ogden, stayed until Saturday, on Friday Mr & Mrs Dexter⁷³ and child came for tea, on Saturday my dear husband ventured out, Mr Edwards took him a drive in his gig, very pleasant day for his first going out.

Sunday 17th. Passed a very happy day together, my beloved husband was able to spend some time in reading to me in the morning, his mind much impressed with the words of Simeon "Lord now lettest" &c., was most powerfully led forth in prayer, and the Almighty was pleased to grant a sweet revival of the begun good work in his heart. The past week has indeed been a most anxious one for me, but I would desire to acknowledge with gratitude the goodness of the Lord in thus restoring my beloved husband to health.

Monday 18th. My dear husband much better, able to go to Oakham and Melton, intended to leave for a short time on Thursday but was prevented, Mr Edmonds being away.

Thursday 28th. At length dear Benjamin started off his long talked of journey, he went to Hallaton in gig, a coursing party. I set off at the same time with Mr Law to Leicester where I arrived at 12. Robert at home, he returned to W^d Place on the 21st Nov^b after an absence of nearly 2 years.

73 Mrs Dexter was Benjamin's sister Ann

December 1844

Sunday 1st. Once more had the privilege of hearing our dear Minister, very happy day. Benjamin arrived on Saturday evening.

Monday 2nd. My dear husband left for Birming. Mr & Mrs Dexter met him at the Station, they spent Tuesday and Wednesday at Tho^s Adams, Thursday 5th proceeded to Stratford, J^{no} Adams just settled there; Benjⁿ came to Leicester on Friday night, the following day made several calls.

Sunday 8th. Truly blessed day, chapel morning and evening, may we be unfeignedly thankful in being thus led so highly to esteem the sound of the gospel.

Monday 9th. Benjamin returned home, on horseback to Tugby, from there by coach. I staid the whole of the week, travelled home on Tuesday 17th with Mr Law, very heavy fog, truly thankful to arrive safely once more at our peaceful home.

Wednesday 11th. Mr Edmonds dined with us, did not expect him, wild duck &c. &c., went with W. Islip in gig.

Wednesday 25th. Christmas Day, joined the family party at Hallaton, Mr & Mrs Thos Adams there, did not expect to see them, we staid all night and arrived home at 11 next mornng.

Thursday 26th. We went to Mr Hopes to dine off Turkey, Mrs Hopkins &c. joined us at tea, did not expect a party.

Tuesday 31st. Had a few young friends to tea, L. Broughton and her sisters with Miss Laws and M(ary) A(nn) Hope; Mr S. Bell joined the party.

Again we have to record the goodness and mercy of God in guiding us and protecting us through another year, how numerous have been the blessings received, and although the Almighty has been pleased to appoint us a share of trouble and anxiety, it has only been to prove his faithfulness and power to deliver; may our hearts overflow with the gratitude to the Auther (sic) of all good in thus making a way of escape, and may we be led to place our whole trust and confidence in Him who alone giveth help in trouble and whose presence sweeten every adversity

January 1845

January 1st 1845. Benjⁿ busy at Bank, John came to dinner at Ashwoods, had tea with us, talked of selling the wool &c

Thursday 2nd. Benjⁿ went to Stamford, did not return home until Saturday, busy settling yearly accounts.

Sunday 4th. A truly blessed day, met at John Wades in the morning, the text was "they that mourn shall be comforted" describing those who are mourners in Zion, the subject blest with power to my soul, the dear Lord sweetly assuring me of my adoption into that blessed family of mourners.

Tuesday 7th. Robert came with Mr Law to spend a little time with us, our favourite Grey became lame, how unfortunate is my dear husband with horses!

Wednesday 8th. Mr S. Bell dined with us, had the prize rabbit, very delicious it was.

Thursday 9th. Benjⁿ and Robert went to Mr Hopes in the evening and on Friday to Mr Edwards, he staid with us until Tuesday 14th, when he returned home with Mr Law.

Wednesday 15th. Mr Edmonds dined with us late, an error in the balance.

Monday 20th. Benjⁿ at Oakham, went to Melton at night, being a fair at both towns, he very unfortunately lost his pocket book, it was found by a person on the road who brought it to him the next mornng, bought a horse at Melton.

Thursday 23rd. My dear husband and Mr Edwards dined at Beaumont Chase, Mr Dexter was to have been there, but was hastily called to London.

Saturday 25th. Called to see poor Sarah Adcock⁷⁴, she lent me a leter (sic) to read from F. M., not very well in the evening.

Sunday 26th. Very poorly indeed, did not rise till 2 o'clock, exceedingly sick and faint, Mr Edwards came in the evening; never can forget the kindness and attention of my affectionate husband, Mrs Hope came at night.

Monday 27th. Rather better, in bed nearly all day, Miss Hope came in the evening, very high wind and snow.

Tuesday 28th. Benjⁿ travelled with Mr Stokes to Melton, terrible morning for them.

Friday 29th (sic). Snow continues, sharp frosty nights, Benjⁿ went to Stamford, the Mare lamed herself, sent for veterinary, wrote to John requesting him to send another horse.

February 1845

Sunday Feb^{ry} 2nd. A truly blessed day, did not go out, my beloved read to me, sermons lent us by Miss Morris, the dear Lord was pleased to grant us his gracious presence bestowing upon us, that sweet peace, love and joy which he alone can give.

Monday 3rd. Benjⁿ rode his new horse, sent Grey to Rolleston.

⁷⁴ Straw bonnet maker and milliner in High Street. (PNL)

Wednesday 5th. Mr Turner came to dinner and stayed all night, expected Mr Edmonds, he was here, but did not stay dinner.

Friday 7th. Benjⁿ went to Rolleston, valued the Stock, a decrease since last year, may there be an increase next.

Wednesday 19th. Mr Edmonds and Mr Morris dined with us, accident with the pudding, Mr M. stayed tea.

Thursday 20th. I went with Mr Law to Leicester, Miss Hand there, Robert at Billing's, London, the weather still very cold with snow, dear Hubby intended to be at Leicester on Sunday, business and the weather prevented, Miss Hand left on Tuesday, 25th. The following Sunday my dear husband again started for Leicester at 5 in the morning, could get no further than Tugby on account of the snow, he spent the day at Rolleston, a great disappointment to us all, S.W. dined with us, enjoyed the service in the evening very much indeed, ordinance. On the Tuesday took tea with friend Marianne, her gent there, she was in excellent spirits, may the event prove for her happiness.

March 1845

Tuesday 4th. Returned to my dear home once more, a very cold ride, called at Tugby, reached home at 7 o'clock.

Tuesday 11th. Mrs Towell went to Leicester, brought poor John⁷⁵ home, M. A. Sargent came with Mr Law, on Wednesday called with her upon J. Wade, Kemps⁷⁶ &c., talked of marriage affairs, Miss Laws came to tea. M. A. S. left on Thursday with Mr Law. The weather still exceedingly cold, a great deal of snow during Wednesday night, the thermometer 20^{d's} below freezing point.

Saturday 15th. Benjⁿ went to Oakham fair, very cold returning home, when shall we have the return of Spring?

Tuesday 18th. Poor John Towell died, I was present at his last moments, very peaceful and easy death.

Thursday 20th. Went to Mr Laws to tea and supper, Mrs Hope there, famous laugh after supper.

Good Friday 21st. Benjⁿ and myself went to Leicester in Mr Laws pony gig, arrived at 12 o'clock, weather rather pleasanter, we all took a walk after dinner, called upon M. A. S., Mr Routon⁷⁷ there.

75 Her terminally ill son, then aged 14 (1841 census). Her husband, George Towell, was the Ogdens' landlord.

76 Possibly the widowed Mrs Elizabeth Kemp and probably her son, who was married round about this time, although they were Congregationalists

77 Edward Rotton, in fact.

Saturday 22nd. Benjⁿ making calls all day, M. A. S. and Mr Routon came to tea.

Sunday 23rd. Chapel morning and evening, Mr Routon went with us in the morning, very excellent sermon from Isaiah 33 C 20 verse, enjoyed much the sound of the gospel once more. Evening text, same C 21st verse.

Monday 24th. Benjⁿ returned home early, took Mr Laws part of the way, then rode the Mare.

Tuesday 25th. Returned home with Mr Law, wet evening, arrived at 8 o'clock.

Wednesday 26th. Mr Edmonds came to dinner, very gracious and pleasant, Benjⁿ had some conversation respecting his own private affairs, Mr E. appeared much pleased.

Sunday 30th. Went to the little meeting at J. W.'s, took a walk afterwards with Mr & Miss Laws, a day for March winds. Thus ends another month, very little appearance of Spring at present, found a very few violets on the Ayston road, the first I have seen this season, we have indeed had six months winter.

April 1845

Tuesday 1st. Commenced florentine painting with A. Law, finished them on Thursday, succeeded very well.

Thursday 3rd. Benjⁿ went to Hallaton to breakfast, did not return until 12 o'clock, C. Billings's affair, very bad sick headache.

Saturday 5th. Very ill all day, bilious attack came on in the night, had Mr Edwards, in bed the whole of the day.

Sunday 6th. Very little better, got up in the afternoon, the meeting at Mr Gamble's, Mr W. confined, Benjⁿ attended morning and afternoon.

Monday 7th. Mrs Dexter came over in the morning, staid an hour, myself still very poorly, did not get up until 1 o'clock.

Tuesday 8th. My old friend M[ary] A[nn] S[argeant] married today⁷⁸, may the change prove for her comfort and happiness, received cards. Mr & Mrs Manton passed through on their way to Leicester, staid there until Thursday.

Friday 11th. Benjⁿ rode over to Hallaton in the morning, took C. Billings's account, camp of Gipsies as he returned.

Friday 18th. With a grateful heart I desire to acknowledge the goodness of God in again restoring me to health; thinking of leaving home for a short time to pay a visit to Grantham during Mr C.'s stay there, may it be a pleasant time and prove for my spiritual good.

⁷⁸ She married Edward Rotton.

Saturday 19th. Started for Grantham, travelled from here to Stamford by the morning coach inside, dined with Mr Goldsmith, then proceeded outside, reached Grantham at half past four, Mr C. had arrived for dinner, received a hearty welcome. The children very poorly with the hooping cough.

Sunday 20th. A truly blessed day, a very encouraging sermon in the morning from Psalm 93rd 12th verse, in the evening from Psalm 72nd 18 & 19 verses, the word blest with sincere power to my soul, thus it is indeed a lamp to our feet and a light to our path, causing our path to shine more and more unto perfect day, bless the dear Lord for this opportunity of hearing the sound of the precious gospel.

Monday. The people assembled for prayer in the morning, the usual party for tea in the evening, Mrs Hall &c.

Wednesday 23rd. Mr Pickering⁷⁹ came for dinner. Chapel in the evening. Text Hebrews 3C 6v

Thursday 24. Mr C. left, enjoyed his company much, very blessed time, may his truly excellent remarks and conversation be deeply impressed on my mind.

Friday 25th. Very glad to perceive the wind change to the south, the weather hitherto having been very cold, continued mild and pleasant for several days, with refreshing showers.

May 1845

Saturday 3rd. Very agreeably (sic) surprised in the afternoon by the arrival of my dear husband quite unexpectedly, delighted to see him!!

Sunday 4th. Chapel in morning and afternoon, walked in garden, Edward Thompson⁸⁰ staying at Mrs T.'s, he came to dinner, Mrs T. called in the evening.

Monday 5th. Rather cold and showery, Benjⁿ walked with us in morning, took a ride with Mr T. in the afternoon.

Tuesday May 6. My dear husband left in the morning for Melton. I went with E. & H. and E. T. to Bottesford for dinner in Fly, meeting in the barn, most blessed discourse from Isaiah 44 C 2nd verse, what an unspeakable mercy it is to be enabled to believe that we are the seed which the Lord hath planted.

Thursday 8th. Went to Bottesford after tea, the barn very full, it is indeed pleasing to see so many thirsting after the water of life, still more wonderful that one so utterly unworthy should thus be brought to enjoy its blessings.

Friday 9th. Travelled to Leicester by the afternoon coach, Chilly and Papa met me, Henry Hand expected, he did not come.

⁷⁹ Perhaps William Pickering, a substantial tenant farmer, of Beaumont Chase House

⁸⁰ Probably the brother of Henry Thompson who was married to Sarah's sister Elizabeth

Saturday 10th. Dear Benjⁿ came in the evening, very glad to see him. I called upon Mr C., he decided to visit us on the following Wednesday, called at the Bell, Miss R. and Mr B. very civil, felt very much the death of Mr L'Hermitte⁸¹.

Sunday 11th. Chapel in the morning, very encouraging, sermon from Proverbs 4 C verse , my dear husband enjoyed it exceedingly, he returned home in the afternoon, T E 2 v.

Monday 12. Returned home by the afternoon coach after an absence of three weeks, happy indeed to be once more with my beloved husband.

Wednesday 14th. Mr C. came by the afternoon coach, in the breakfast room for tea, very pleasant and encouraging conversation, supper down stairs, stayed all night, read after breakfast 1 C Ezekiel, left at 11 o'clock, enjoyed his company much. My dear husband went to Oakham, meeting of the Directors, dined with them. Mamma at Grantham during Mr C.'s absence, Papa and Chilly went to London & Brighton. Chilly stayed at Dover Street on her return. The chapel at Leicester cleaned and painted. Robert again thinking of leaving England. Mr Cole very kindly interested himself on his behalf and obtained a passage with a Captain who was well known to him.

June 1845

June 2nd. Expected my old friend Sara by the coach, she was not there, came with Mr Law on Tuesday 3rd, very glad to see her once more, wet evening for her journey, arrived at 9 o'clock.

Wednesday 4th. Had a pleasant walk in Love Lane in the morning, talked over olden times &c.

Thursday 5th. Busy drawing in the morning, Mr Edwards and Hubby called, first introduction.

Friday 6th. Expected Miss Linnington⁸² to dine, she could not come, waited to receive Mrs Hart. Mr Edwards dined with us, walked to Ayston in the evening, M. A. Hope came to tea.

Sunday 8th. Chapel morning and afternoon, my dear husband conversed very pleasantly after chapel in the morning, read to us in the evening.

81 Henry L'Hermitte was one of the proprietors of the Bell Hotel. He died at the age of 51 and, according to The Northampton Mercury of 19.4.1845, was 'deservedly esteemed and respected': As a tradesman he was "a pattern and an example"; as a friend he was generous and true; and as a man he was endowed with those virtues which have embalmed his name in the memory of all who knew him. The poor and the needy have lost in him a kind and sympathising friend, for he was one whose charities were the more sincere as they were the less ostentatious. He was one of the few who "do good by stealth and blush to find it fame."

82 Probably a relative of Mary Ann Hope whose mother's maiden name was Linnington (PNL)

Monday 9th. The funeral of poor Mr Hart⁸³ and his daughter took place at 11 o'clock in the morning. Mr H. died on the 4th, Mrs Orwood⁸⁴ on the 5th, a most affecting sight, may these solemn warnings lead us seriously to contemplate and prepare for our latter end.

Tuesday 10th. Called upon poor Mrs Hart, it is gratifying indeed to see her so resigned and peaceful, was able to be down stairs.

Wednesday 11th. Sara had a ride on Mr Edward's pony, my dear husband on the mare, went to Ridlington, Mr Edwards came to supper.

Thursday 12th. Had company for dinner, Mr Dexter, J^{no} Ogden, J^{no} Huskinson & Mr Edwards, they went to his house to smoke cigars, came again to tea.

Friday 13th. Went to Tugby in the afternoon, Mrs Hope and Miss Linnington with us, had tea, Mrs Ogden went with us to the Hall, walked round the grounds and over the house, my good husband on horseback, he went on to Rolleston, exceedingly warm going, very pleasant returning home.

Saturday 14th. Very beautiful day, walked in the morning, Mr Goldsmith came in the evening, borrowed (sic) a sleeping room for him.

Sunday 15th. Mr Goldsmith went over to Stoke in the morning, (chapel as usual), he returned for dinner, looked over bible prints, music & singing in the evening.

Monday 16th. Mr Goldsmith left after breakfast, Sara sketched an excellent likeness, very warm day, walked on Seaton lane, gathered moss, enjoying my dear friend's company very much.

Tuesday 17th. Mr Goldsmith came again to attend in Mr Bell's absence, Sara and I went to Stoke, took the pony, exceedingly warm, Mr Swann⁸⁵ very kind, delighted with the dear children, home at 4, Mr G. went over after business. Benj at Melton.

Wednesday 18th. Mr Goldsmith came to dinner, favored us with several songs, left in the evening.

Friday 20th. Went to Hallaton, Mrs Hope & Miss Linnington with us, dear Hubby & the D^r on horseback, walked over the Hall grounds &ct, stayed supper, home at 11, all enjoyed it exceedingly.

Sunday 22nd. Chapel as usual, old Dodson there in the morning, he called afterwards.

83 The Leicester Mercury of 7th June has: 'On the 4th inst., at Uppingham, suddenly, of water in the chest, much respected, Mr George Hart, grocer, in his 63rd year. He had carried on the above business for upwards of 40 years as an honourable tradesman. He was an affectionate husband, an indulgent father, a peaceable neighbour, and a consistent Christian, whose end was peace.'

84 Sarah has mis-heard her name: she was Sarah Ann Harwood, daughter of George Hart grocer. Sarah records her death on 5 June 1845, the day after that of her father. She died in London, aged 31, leaving her husband and five small children. She was interred in the same grave as her father. (Lincoln, Rutland and Stamford Mercury, 13.6.45)

85 Charles Henry Swann, rector of Stoke Dry.

Monday. Went to Hopes to tea, Miss Broughton &ct there, had tea in the harbour.

Tuesday 24th. Mr Edwards called in the morning to see the sketch, presented bouquet to Sara.

Wednesday 25th. Sara had a ride to Seaton, Mr E. joined them, he called afterwards.

Thursday 26th. Called upon J. Wade, walked afternoon, Mr Edwards called in the evening, music & singing

Friday 27th. Expected Mr & Mrs Dexter &c for tea, they could not come on account of rain, Mr Edwards came and M. A. Hope

Saturday 28th. Party for tea, Miss Laws, Broughtons &ct, & Mr Edwards, music & singing.

Sunday 29th. Chapel as usual, read Romans in the morning, pleasant converse.

Monday 30th. Walked to Bisbrook in the morning. Benjⁿ rode to Liddington in the evening, we walked to meet him, thorn in foot.

July 1845

Tuesday 1st July. Mr Edwards called to examine foot, had poultice &c., on the sofa all day.

Thursday. Foot much better. Dear Hubby went to Stamford, stayed until Friday night. Sara and I walked to Stoke, presented the likeness, two ladies there, very warm returning.

Saturday 5th. Walked in the morning, Mr Edwards came, walked to Ayston with us, and had tea.

Sunday 6th. Chapel as usual, Benjⁿ read to us.

Monday 7th. Called at Hopes in the morning, walked afterwards, Mr Bryan & family called⁸⁶, Mr Edwards in the morning brought song.

Tuesday 8th. Walked in the afternoon, intended to go to Preston, caught in a shower.

Wednesday 9th. Haymaking in the field near our house, we joined them, treated the females with tea, Mr Edwards brought his horn.

⁸⁶ Thomas Bryan, grocer, and family lived and worked at 7 & 8 Market Place (PNL)

Thursday 10th. Went in town in the morning. Mrs Swann, children & Miss Swann⁸⁷'s called, Benjⁿ went to Rolleston, we went to Deans garden⁸⁸, chose some plants, Edwards sent strawberries.

Friday 11th. The day for Sara's departure, very wet, many pros & cons how she was to travel, at length decided for dear Hubby to drive us to Tugby, Mr Edwards accompanying us, rained the whole of the way, well cloaked up and a merry drive, Benjⁿ and Mr E. went on to Rolleston, we stayed all night at Tugby, J^{no} Ogden drove us to Leicester on the Saturday. Sara stayed at Welford Place with us until Sunday, Benjⁿ came on the Saturday evening, converse with Sara & Mr W. (?), he returned home in the afternoon, I remained for a few days, Mamma returned home with me on Thursday 17th, Papa drove us to Tugby where we had tea, my beloved husband met us with our new carriage, I rode behind, enjoyed it much, Mamma stayed until the end of the month, very poorly and nervous the whole of the time, consulted Mr Edwards, the weather very dull and showery, quite unusual for July.

Tuesday 29th. Papa came with Benjⁿ from Melton, stayed until Saturday August 2nd, he and Mamma returned home together by coach.

Thursday 31st. News arrived that Eliza was safely delivered of a little boy⁸⁹ at 8 o'clock in the morning, August 1st our friend Mrs Adshead brought forth her first born, a girl, afterwards named Charlotte Elizabeth⁹⁰, may it prove a blessing to its parents.

August 1845

Saturday Augst 2nd. Benjⁿ went to Stamford, forgot to leave key; when he returned Papa & Mamma had left; the first evening we have been alone since May.

Saturday 9th. Passed a very happy and peaceful week without company, it is indeed a comfort not to be obliged to roam abroad for pleasure but to find our real happiness consists in the enjoyment of each others endearing society.

Wednesday 13th. Mr Edmonds dined with us.

Tuesday 19th. Very wet day for my dear husband's journey to Melton, came home wet through.

87 The family of Charles Henry Swann, Rector of Stoke Dry: his wife Elizabeth (35), Emma (5), Eliza (4) and Charles (2). In due course there were two more children. Miss Swann was perhaps a sister of the Rector.

88 Thomas Dean, nurseryman & seedsman, had a shop in Market Place and a nurerry garden on land below South View. (PNL)

89 Alfred Cam Thompson, parents Henry and Eliza

90 Parents Charles and Ann Adshead

Wednesday 20th. Mr George Hart⁹¹ called in the evening, enjoyed his conversation exceedingly, stir with Mrs Towell about Mr Hope and the straw, the weather rather more pleasant.

Thursday 21st. My dear husband went to Melton to attend at the fair, accompanied Mr Pickering in his gig, started at 5 o'clock. Mr Edmonds thought the mare lame, could not use her.

Saturday 23rd. Robert Ogden came for dinner, conversation respecting his leaving home, may my dear husband be able to succeed.

Sunday 24th. May we never forget this truly happy day, my beloved husband favoured with a sweet witness of the Holy spirit, enabling him to hope and believe on Christ as his Saviour and Redeemer; how vain & trifling are all earthly things when compared to these moments of heavenly joy & peace.

Thursday 28th. Benjⁿ went to Tugby in the morning respecting Robert leaving, a scene he will not easily forget, succeeded in persuading him to leave, and promised very kindly to assist him, and parted on good terms.

Friday 29th. Benjⁿ went to Hallaton, converse about Robert, the whole of the family, more especially his mother, ought indeed to feel greatly indebted to my good husband, for so kindly exerting himself.

September 1845

Monday 1st. Benjⁿ and Mr Edwards went to Mr Bryans⁹² of Liddington in the evening.

Tuesday 2nd. Very pleasant day for my dear husband's journey, the present change is indeed a great blessing to the country. Benjⁿ bought a horse of Mr Goude.

Thursday 4th. My dear husband and myself went over to Oakham to dine at Mr Morris's, the ladies exceedingly pleasant, 10 for dinner, arrived home at half past 10. Mr Goud's horse.

⁹¹ George Hart, grocer, and Congregationalist, had recently died (see entry for 9.6.45): this George Hart was an active member of the Bethesda Chapel. (PNL)

⁹² Probably a brother of Thomas Bryan the Uppinghm grocer, who was born in Lyddington (PNL)

Saturday 6th. Large party for dinner, grand day at Uppingham, procession of horsemanship⁹³, Mr & Mrs Dexter came with three children⁹⁴, Mrs White with two, and Mrs Ogden Snr & Robert dined at 1 o'clock, tea at 5, after which we started with them to Leicester.

Sunday 7th. We spent the day at Welford Place, encouraging sermon in the morning from Psalm 84th, 5,6,7 v's. Mr Williams of Sleaford there.

Monday 8th. Went to meet Robert at the Mail with my dear Husband, called at Williamson's and the Bell, Mr Thompson came, we returned home in the evening, arrived at 8 o'clock, very pleasant visit, kindly entertained.

Friday 12th. My birthday, received kind present of a purse from Chilly, very pleasant day, walked to Ayston, & round the gardens.

Saturday 20th. Passed a quiet happy week, commenced the large painting, Ruins of Rome, letters from Chilly wishing us to join them in a tour to Matlock, after some consideration I consented, Benjⁿ could not leave on account of Mr Edmonds & S. Bell being from home.

Monday 22nd. Travelled to Leicester by coach, arrived there at 4, Chilly and Mr Hand met me, very warm reception.

Wednesday 24th. Started for Matlock at 10 o'clock, arrived at Derby at 1, went to the Aboretum, dined afterwards, arrived at Matlock at 6, took lodgings at Mr Saxtons, Museum Parade.

Thursday 25th. Rained in the morning, explored the Speedwell Cavern, & Romantic rocks, fine in the afternoon, walked in Ark[w]right grounds, enjoyed it much, many times wished my beloved husband was with us, it would indeed have been a delightful change for him.

Friday 26th. Had double Fly to Chatsworth, Haddon Hall and Bakewell, dined at Bakewell, most delightful day.

Saturday 27th. Papa left us in the morning, rather wet, amused ourselves in the Museums, and exploring the Devonshire Cavern, cleared up in the afternoon, row on water, and strolled to the top of rocks.

Sunday 28th. Church in the morning, walked up the Heights of Abraham, quiet evening at home, beautiful weather.

93 The Lincoln, Rutland and Stamford Mercury of 13.10.45 has: 'Hughes' procession of elephants, horse, carriages, and equestrian performers, this week, has much gratified the inhabitants of Melton, Oakham, Stamford, and Peterboro', and has even exceeded the high expectation raised of the beauty and rarity of the exhibition. No show has ever before, we believe, travelled in England. The expense of the establishment, in food and wages, is said to be 50*l.* a day, and we can believe it. The performances have been well patronized at all the towns.' Perhaps the whole parade passed through Uppingham to, or perhaps Sarah and friends were deprived of the elephants!

94 They seem to have had two children of their own, Mary (b.1837) and Martha (b.1842).

Monday 29th. Had donkey ride to the Black Rocks, took luncheon with us, returned home for dinner at 2, had a row to the High Tor, climbed to the top, quite dusk when we arrived home, at 7 o'clock.

Tuesday 30th. Went to Dovedale, most beautiful scenery, enjoyed the day exceedingly, arrived home at 8 o'clock for dinner.

October 1845

Wednesday 1st. Went to Museum in the morning, made a few purchases, packed up & set off home at 2 by Omnibus to Amber Gate⁹⁵, from thence by Mail to Leicester.

Thursday 2nd. Henry Hand went by Coach to Grantham, I stayed at Leicester until Monday 5th, Chilly came to Uppingham with me, travelled by afternoon coach, delighted indeed to see my dear Hubby again.

Wednesday 8th. Henry Hand came by Mail from Stamford at half past 8, did not expect him so early, left his luggage to come by next coach, by mistake it was sent on to Leicester.

Monday 13th. I went with Chilly and Henry to Beaumont, on a shooting excursion, shot a fine hare, enjoyed the day much.

Wednesday 15th. Henry's birthday, Mr Wortley⁹⁶ & Mr Hope came for dinner, on Thursday Henry had a day's shooting at Ridlington. My dear Hubby very anxious respecting the Treasurship⁹⁷ (sic), having come forward as a candidate, may he be successful.

Monday 20th. Day of Election, Mr Hope went to Oakham with my dear husband, news arrived at 12 that Mr Ogden had gained the Victory, a general rejoicing, Coronation Chair, and blue favors (sic) &c. Victory! Victory!

Wednesday 22nd. Party of gents for dinner, viz. Mr Pickering, Mr Edwards, Mr Oliver & Mr S. Bell, dined at 5. Coffee at 9. Pleasant evening.

Friday 24th. Henry Hand left by the Mail in the evening to Stamford, Mr Goldsmith travelled with him. Chilly rather dull.

Monday 27th. Chilly returned home by the midday coach, thus my dear husband and self are once more alone, quiet and truly happy enjoying each others society.

95 Ambergate, a Derbyshire village

96 Probably Nathaniel William Wortley, assessor of taxes, living (a few years earlier, at least) at 40/42 High Street West. (PNL)

97 He is listed in White's directory for 1846 as Treasurer of the Court of Requests for Uppingham District – however the post referred to was that of Treasurer of the Oakham Small Debts Court, a county-wide responsibility. His rival for the post was Benjamin Hopkins (Lincolnshire Chronicle 24.10.1845)

Friday 31st. Passed the last few days of the month very happily at our dear home, nothing very particular occurred, continued the drawing, viz Ruins in Rome, the weather very pleasant for the time of year, how many mercies and blessings are we daily receiving, may our hearts be filled with gratitude to the Giver of all good who thus bestows numerous favours upon objects so unworthy.

November 1845

Nothing worthy of note occurred during the commencement of this month. Mr Edmonds dined with us on the 19th, Mr Slater⁹⁸ brought a plan of a house, for Mr E.'s inspection.

Nov^r 27th Thursday. Set off on our long talked of journey, left home at 9, drove to Tugby, Chamberlain with us, Benjⁿ rode to Keythorpe⁹⁹ to see "the meet", followed the hounds some distance and left his horse at Hallaton, borrowed Mr Dexter's, and returned to Tugby, the fox killed in Mr D.'s garden, we dined at Tugby, then drove to Hallaton for tea, and took up our abode for the night.

Friday 28th. Benjⁿ & Mr Dexter joined a coursing party, I and Mr Dexter walked to Blaston, all returned home for dinner at 4, Mr Simpkin, Mr S. Jun^r and Mr Spencer (?) called in the evening.

Saturday 29th. Mr & Mrs Dexter accompanied us to Leicester in their carriage, dined with us at Welford Place, they returned home in the afternoon.

Sunday 30th. Chapel morning and evening, once more had the privilege (sic) of hearing the sound of the blessed gospel, my dear husband much encouraged.

December 1845

Monday 1st. Mrs Thompson came by Mail to meet Mr Orton (?) & Joseph, dined with us, Benjⁿ has some private converse with Mr T. in the evening.

Tuesday 2nd. Left Leicester at half past 8 for Birmingham, arrived there at ½ p 11, J. Ogden there, dined early, he left afterwards, went to the Papier Maché works, rained, returned home in a Car, quiet evening, worked.

Wednesday 3rd. Mr Benson called, went with him to call upon Mrs Wakeman, from there to the Cemetery, from there to the Galery (sic) of Artists. Mr B. & Mrs W. dined with us, Mrs W. left after tea, had a walk after tea by Gas light, went to Mr Benson's refreshment rooms.

⁹⁸ Daniel Slater was a builder and cabinet maker, of 31, High Street East. This entry may refer to initial plans for banking premises and/or manager's house, eventually completed about 1850. (PNL)

⁹⁹ Part of the parish of Keythorpe and Tugby

Thursday 4th. Mr Benson called, took us to the Town Hall, & Market Hall, Benjⁿ and J. A. went to a sale of horses, we went to Collis's rooms, returned home for lunch then went to Edgbaston, returned home in Car. Dined at 3, left at 4 by Coach, Benjⁿ outside, very wet ride, arrived at Stratford at 8. J. Adams met us, Mrs Adams & children received us very kindly.

Friday 5th Called upon Mrs Cox in the mornng and went to the Church, also had a pleasant walk; after dinner walked to the Spa, had tea on our return, supper with Mr & Mrs Cox & family.

Saturday 6th. Mr & Mrs C. & family came to breakfast, we took our departure at 10 by coach outside, very pleasant morning, enjoyed the drive much, arrived at Leamington Station about 12, travelled by train to Leicester, arrived at ten p 2 just in time for dinner, very kindly received, found all well.

Sunday 7th. Chapel in the morning, Mr C. at Grantham, S. W. dined with us, we left after dinner, pleasant drive, had tea at Tugby, arrived at Uppingham at 8, truly thankful and happy to reach our peaceful home in safety, most cordially joining in the old song – No place like Home.

Monday 8th. Set to work at my painting, Benjⁿ very busy, after his long absence, brought letters home to sort, Friday 19th, in which I assisted.

Wednesday 17th. Mr Edmonds came on business but did not stay dinner.

Monday 22nd. A truly winterly (sic) day for my dear husbands journey to Oakham, snowed in the morning, exceedingly cold, rained in the afterpart of the days.

Wednesday 24th. Benjⁿ busy at Bank, M. A. & C. Hope¹⁰⁰ called in the evening.

Thursday 25th, Christmas Day. Went to Hallaton. Started at 10, very pleasant morning, mild and rather damp, Mr & Mrs J. Adams there & the whole of the family except Jane & her husband, Mrs R. Cort and Miss Weston there.

Friday 26th. The gents went over the farm in the morning, I did not go out, the same party for dinner, music in the even, they all stayed until Monday, we left on Saturday morning, arrived home at 12, J. Adams came with us on business, he returned to Hallaton for dinner.

Family ages

Name	Birthday	Year
Robert Cort	Nov ^b 11 th	1769
James Cort	Aug st 11 th	1771
Benj ⁿ Cort	Aug st 4 th	1775
Martha Cort	Sept ^r 23 rd	1780
Ann Cort	Aug st 19 th	1784

Benjⁿ Cort Sen^r died Augst 12th 1812, age 78

Mrs Cort Sen^r died Dec^r 25th 1813, age 70

100Mary Ann Hope, wife of William Hope, chemist, of 15 High Street East, and her 13-year-old daughter Charlotte. (PNL)

January 1846

January 1st 1846. My dear husband went to Stamford, dined before he went at 2 o'clock, started in good spirits, returned home on Friday 2nd in the evening, very busy time at work until 3 on Thursday Morning.

Sunday 4th. First in the New year, very suitable subject read at Chapel, the text was "O spare me before I go hence and be no more", comparing our short life to an endless eternity.

Monday 12th. Benjⁿ went to Oakham, the day on which Clark & Philips dividend was paid¹⁰¹, Mr Edmonds there, very busy.

Monday 19th. Melton fair, Benjⁿ started at 6 in the morning, staid there all night, returned home on Tuesday evening.

Thursday 22nd. Mrs Ogden came to spend a little time with us, very poorly next day with cold at chest, had Mr Edwards on the Sunday, ordered warm remedies and sent medicine, better on Monday, did not go out, made calls on Tuesday, Mrs Stokes & Sons came on business on Wednesday morning.

Thursday 29th. Letter from Charlotte saying they had heard from Robert, the first time since he sailed in July 45.

Friday 30th. Mrs Ogden left us in the morning, fair when she started but rained afterwards, cold very much better, drove herself in gig.

Tuesday 13th. Received a fine console of Capon fowls from Mr Broughton of Worthing.

Thursday 15th. Mr Hope dined with us, enjoyed the wild fowl exceedingly (alias Capon).

Friday 16th. Mr Thompson came in the evening from Mr Bell's, stayed tea.

Friday 23rd. Mrs Hope dined with us off Turkey (alias Capon), Mrs Ogden staying with us.

The latter memorandums omitted but were entered afterwards, thus the first month of another year has quickly passed away, we know not what changes may take place before next January, may our first desire to be to grow in grace and in the knowledge of Christ our Saviour, leaving all events in the hands of Him who overrules all for the good of His chosen ones.

101 According to White's History, gazetteer and directory of Leicestershire, ... Rutland, 1846, under History of Leicester, The banking house of Messrs, Clarke, Mitchell, Phillips, and Smith, failed in April, 1843, and their debts amounted to about £540,000, on which a dividend of 4s. in the pound was paid in January, 1846. This was the bank for which Benjamin had worked prior to its failure.

February 1846

Sunday 1st. May we never forget the evening of this day! My dear husband read to me Joy of Faith, Hunt^{tons} Works¹⁰². The dear Lord was pleased to favor each of us with his presence, granting a sweet & powerful sense of his precious love to our souls, our hearts overflowing with love and gratitude for these unspeaking mercies, enjoying that perfect peace which passeth all understanding.

Thursday 5th. Received Roberts letter written to his Father from Bombay, where he had arrived on 7th of Dec^{br} poor fellow, he has indeed encountered many dangers, a second mutiny on board but no lives lost. May he be led to acknowledge the goodness of God in thus preserving him hitherto, and Oh that these changes may by the blessing of God work a powerful change in his heart, that he may be turned from darkness to light, from the power of Satan unto God, for with Him all things are possible. Such indeed are the desires of my heart.

Friday 6th. My dear husband came home early intending to go to Rolleston; hearing John was from home, he went to Tugby instead, Mrs Dexter there, very busy making pork pies.

Saturday 7th. Benjⁿ rode over to Tugby, brought T. Adams home with him, stayed all night, left us for Hallaton Sunday morning, took Mrs Ogden Sen^r to Birmingham on Monday.

Monday 9th. Rather more the appearance of winter, very cold and snow in the afternoon.

Tuesday 10th. Sharp frost and snow all night, the first time we have seen, the fields and trees white this winter.

Thursday 12th. The snow quite disappeared. My dear husband went to Stamford at 6 o'clock, meeting of the Shareholders, returned about 6 in the evening, decision respecting Mr Slaters house, Benjⁿ dined with the Director.

Saturday 14th. Valentines still in vogue, Mr Oliver¹⁰³ sold no less than four hundred – in this little town, we had buns for breakfast & tea.

Thursday 19th. Miss M. Edwards¹⁰⁴ and her brother spent the evening with us, had some music.

Friday 20th. Benjⁿ had a ride before breakfast with Mr Edwards and Mr Cookson, to try a new horse, which Mr C. bought of J. Ogden. Mr Edwards also exchanged three, the horses were going to Oundle fair.

102 Huntington, W.: *The joy of faith in the shadow of death*, London, 1804, with subsequent editions, sold, according to the first edition title page, by George Caladine, Bookseller, Leicester and by Thomas Barton, Market Place, Grantham. Huntington was a Providence Chapel minister.

103 Charles Oliver, printer, stationer, bookseller, newsagent and distributor of stamps, of 6, High Street East (PNL)

104 Martha Edwards, of Tudor House 1 (8, High Street West), was a sister of John Edwards, surgeon.

Saturday 21st. Benjⁿ very poorly, pains in joints, shivering fits &ct, had Mr Edwards, ordered warm remedies, better in the morning, did not go out, much better on Monday – went to Oakham as usual.

Saturday 28th. Mr & Mrs Dexter came in the morning, stayed dinner, left at 5 o'clock.

March 1846

March 3rd. Benjⁿ went to Melton, Papa met him there, respecting Gas shares. Chilly at Chesterfield.

Wednesday 4th. John breakfasted with us on his return from Downham fair, expected him on the previous evening.

Monday 16th. Very much engaged with my large painting, wishing to complete it before my Grantham visit. Passed this month very quietly at our happy home. Mr Slater brought the plans for our inspection.

Wednesday 25th. Mr Edmonds dined with us and stayed all night, converse with Mr Slater respecting the house, decided to take it.

Tuesday 31st. Letter from Robert stating the particulars of his voyage, again encountered great dangers, mutiny on board, & short of water, arrived in Bombay in the month of Dec.

April 1846

April 10th, Good Friday. Benjⁿ went to Rolleston to spend the day, I should have accompanied him but having been a good deal of rain the ground was exceedingly damp – dined with Hopes, Chapel in afternoon, tea with them.

Saturday 11th. Busy packing up and preparing to leave home for a short time, travelled to Leicester by coach, sorry to find Papa very poorly, suffering from Asthma, Mamma not very well; Chilly at Chesterfield – remained at Leicester untill Thursday 16th when I proceeded to Grantham by coach, very warm reception, spent a very pleasant time, was favoured with the company of our dear Minister, came on the 19th, once more enjoyed the sound of the gospel.

Sunday 19th. Chapel morning and evening, truly blessed discourse from 23 C Number 20, 21 v., this was indeed a time of confirming grace, the word of God most abundantly blest to my soul, these times are indeed a feast of fat things, and Oh! How insignificant do the concerns of this poor vain world appear.

Monday 20th. Henry obliged to be away from home, the old Ladies came to tea on the following evening instead, very pleasant converse.

Wednesday 22nd. Chapel in the evening, the text was taken from

Thursday 23rd. Mr C. left by the afternoon coach, passed our time very pleasantly walking, hacking &ct, intended to leave on the 30th but Eliza kindly persuaded me to stay until after Bottesford visit.

May 1846

Sunday May 3rd. Chapel in the morning, E. & H. walked afterwards, I declined, was most agreeably (sic) surprised by the arrival of my beloved husband, accompanied us to chapel in afternoon, we also went to Mabys meeting in the evening, enjoyed it much.

Monday 4th. Benjⁿ had a ride with Henry in the morning, afterwards to the field with us to see the Shetland pony, he left on Tuesday for Melton.

Tuesday 5th. Went to Bottesford for dinner, met at the barn, most blessed discourse from Gal 2 16v.

Thursday 7th. Drove to Bottesford in the evening, the barn crowded, exceedingly warm, T Gal 2 16 2nd pt

Friday 8th. Journeyed to Leicester, left at 3 o'clock, pleasant outside, Chilly & S.W. met me at Stag, very kind reception. Papa very much better. Benjⁿ intended to come on the Saturday but was prevented, obliged to be at Stamford on Monday.

Sunday 10th. Chapel morning and evening, enjoyed the service much, regretted my dear husband was not there, T.M. Psalm 119 124v, E John 17 11v.

Thursday 14. Having spent a few days in Leicester very pleasantly, I once more travelled homewards, after an absence of nearly 5 weeks, very sorry on my arrival to find my dear Husband far from well, had been poorly for some time caused by over exertion & cold, also anxiety from Mr Goldsmith leaving, may these changes prove for good in spirituals as well as temporals.

Friday 15th. Mrs J. Ogden came over in the afternoon, Mary Jane with her, my dear husband rather better.

Sunday. Mr & Mrs Dexter came to see my dear husband, still very poorly, quite uncomfortable about him.

Tuesday 19th. Benjⁿ drove to Melton, meeting of the Directors, very excellent dinner. Benjⁿ vice-president, decided for this to be made separate Branch, and for Benjⁿ to have another clerke, may the change prove to my dear husband's advantage.

Thursday 21st. My beloved Funch (?) very much better, drove to Hallaton in the evening, the fair, very beautiful weather, enjoyed it much.

Friday 22nd. Benjⁿ had a drive with Mr Edwards, I called upon Miss Edwards, went to Dean's garden.

Saturday 23rd. Mrs J. Ogden came in the afternoon, stayed tea, Benj at Stamford, did not arrive home until 9, Mother Ogden came with Mr Law quite unexpectedly, spent Sunday with us, left on Monday morning.

Tuesday 26th. Mr & Mrs R. Jacques came to tea, they were passing through the town, Benjⁿ at Melton.

Sunday 31st. Finished the month very pleasantly, accompanied my dear husband to Leicester, most beautiful morning, started at 5 o'clock, arrived there before 8, once more favoured with the sound of the precious gospel, most encouraging discourse from 26 Isaiah 8v.; the word powerfully blest to my dear husband, a day never to be forgotten.

June 1846

Monday 1st June. Benjⁿ engaged the whole of the day, exceedingly warm, we all went to Mr C.'s for tea, spent a very pleasant evening.

Tuesday 2nd. Left Leicester at 6 for Melton, had breakfast at the Inn, spent the day with Mrs Burbidge, enjoyed it very much, arrived home in the evening, very pleasant drive.

Thursday 4th. M. A. Hope called in the evening, walked with us on the following evening, Benj went to Rolleston. I called upon Miss Edwards.

Sunday 7th. The fourth anniversary of our wedding day, spent it very quietly at our dear home, attended the meeting as usual, very happy recalling the numerous mercies received for which we do indeed desire to praise our gracious God & Father in Christ Jesus.

Wednesday 10th. Mr Edmonds dined with us, quite an unexpected guest, the weather still excessively warm, rain very much wanted.

Thursday 11th. Went to Rolleston with dear Frunch in the evening, sad loss amongst the sheep.

Friday 12th. Had a pleasant ride on horseback, went to Stockerston &ct, enjoyed it much.

Tuesday 16th. A grand day at our little town, the "school speeches", Mrs Dexter came, we went to hear them with Mrs Bryan¹⁰⁵, quite an assemblage of ladies, enjoyed it much, had cold dinner on our return at 4, Mrs D. left in the evening, dinner & ball at Mr Holdens¹⁰⁶

105 Catherine Bryan was the wife of Thomas Bryan, Grocer etc., of 6 & 8 Market Place. Of their nine children, the six boys were all educated at the Grammar School.

106 The Reverend Henry Holden was headmaster of the Grammar School and also curate of Ayston. The School, later to develop into the public school Uppingham School, had 63 pupils in 1851, 36 of them in a boarding house run by Holden.

Thursday 18th. Mrs Bryan and family took tea with us, very pleasant evening, supper.

Monday 22nd. Benjⁿ went to Oakham as usual, a very heavy storm just after he arrived home, Mr Edmonds came in the evening, accompanied by the new clerk, Mr Burbank, an important time for my dear husband, may the change prove to his advantage, and may our hearts be filled with gratitude to our kind Heavenly Father who hath helped us hitherto.

July 1846

July 1st. Continued showers since the 22nd, a most welcome change after the excessive heat, and very dry weather, now cool and pleasant, the country appearing beautiful all around. O! that our hearts may be thus refreshed by the sweet influence of the Holy Spirit, even as the rain upon the tender herb and the dew upon the mown grass.

Thursday 2nd. My dear husband and his clerk very much occupied with the stock taking – at work until after 1 o'clock, I sat up with them, had the books in the breakfastroom.

Saturday 11th. My dear husband very busy with the books, balance correct, may the new clerk continue to go on as well as he has begun.

Monday 13th. Ruth Chamberlain¹⁰⁷ came by the evening coach, stopped at our house, Benjⁿ at Oakham, went round by Tugby, Mr & Mrs T. Adams there, & Mrs J. Adams & family, the feast(?).

Tuesday 14th. Benjⁿ went to Melton, took a walk with Ruth to Ayston, pleasant conversation, walked round the garden, weather very pleasant indeed.

Thursday 16th. Went to Hallaton. Mrs Hope drove, the Sale at the Hall, dined and took tea with Mrs Dexter, rained in the afternoon, fair drive home, arrived about 9 o'clock.

Friday 17th. Had a pleasant walk with Ruth to Mr Wade's garden¹⁰⁸ in the evening.

Sunday 19th. Chapel morning and afternoon, Ruth enjoyed the morning service much.

Monday 20th. Accompanied my dear husband to Oakham, called upon Miss Mould &ct, dined at Mr Morris's, the ladies very pleasant, enjoyed their conversation much.

107 Not one of Joseph's and Jane's children

108 Possibly John Wade's garden, probably near 'Wade's Terrace', North Street East; possibly the garden of Richard Wade, carrier, of School Lane, under today's Memorial Hall. (PNL)

Thursday 23rd. Eliza Chamberlain¹⁰⁹ arrived by the morning coach, Mrs T. Adams and child, with Mrs Ogden, came unexpectedly, spent the day with us – took a walk after tea.

Friday 24th. Very acceptable rain during the day, cleared in the evening, had a short walk, Eliza & I afterwards went to Wades garden.

Saturday 25th. Delightful after the rain, went to Beaumont Chase, Eliza rode there and Ruth home, my dear husband took us a drive to Ridlington, called upon Mrs Wortley.

Sunday 26th. Chapel morning and evening, service pleasant, subject Romans on the parable of dry bones. J. Wade came in the evening, converse more pleasant than usual.

Monday 27th. I enjoyed a pleasant walk with Eliza in love lane, left Ruth to sketch.

Tuesday 28th. Enjoyed a ramble through the wood, I and Ruth walked there, Eliza rode, called upon Mrs Woods, took lunch, drove home, very warm day, though pleasant.

Wednesday 29th. Exceedingly warm, busy preparing for Mr Edmonds, he dined with us.

Thursday 30th. My dear husband left home for a few days, to attend the Leicester assize, we drove to Lyddington in the evening, saw the Beadhouse, Mrs Bryan not at home.

Friday 31st. Drove to Stoke in the morning, called at the Rectory, Mrs Swann accompanied us to the Church, took lunch, sketched a little.

Saturday. Spent the day quietly at home, very violent thunder storm in the evening, began at 8, continued until 11 o'clock, very violent also at Leicester.

August 1846

Sunday 2nd. Chapel in the morning, thunder storm, stayed and lunched in the chapel. Benjⁿ at Leicester, returned home at 9.

Monday 3rd. Eliza not so well as usual, consulted Mr Edwards, medicine ordered & mustard plasters, also change of diet.

Tuesday 4th. Our dear Fathers birthday age 70, may he enjoy peace and comfort in these, his latter days¹¹⁰. Benjⁿ at Melton, Papa and Eliza & Henry there, dined together, Eliza had a ride to Ayston, Mr Berrick came in the evening.

¹⁰⁹ A 16-year-old daughter of Joseph and Jane Chamberlain

¹¹⁰ He was honoured by being consulted as a witness by the House of Commons Railway Committee concerning 'the advantages that would arise from a direct communication between Birmingham and Leicester'. (Leicester Chronicle, 13.6.1846)

Wednesday 5th. Walked in the morning, dined at 5, Benjⁿ with us, enjoyed the Salmon sent us on Papa's birthday.

Thursday 6th. Delightful day, intended to have a drive in the evening, but Mr & Mrs Dexter and Jane Adams came, stayed tea & left at 8 o'clock.

Friday 7th. Heavy rain in the morning, prevented us going to Hallaton, Benjⁿ drove us to Seaton & Harringworth in the evening, exceedingly close.

Saturday 8th. Had a pleasant drive to Holt¹¹¹ in the morning, very beautiful day.

Monday 10th. Drove to Seaton, Thorpe and Lyddington in the morning, called upon Miss Stokes (?)

Wednesday 12th. I and Eliza had a walk in the morning, Miss Edwards called, Benjⁿ went to Stamford in the evening, unpleasant affair with Mary, never can I place confidence in her again.

Thursday 13th. Meeting of Directors at Boston, my dear husband left home on the previous evening, proceeded from Stamford the next morning accompanied by Mr Edmonds &ct., dined at Boston, reached Stamford again at night.

Friday 14th. Walked in the morning; being market day at Stamford, Benjⁿ did not return home until evening, talked over Mary's affair.

Saturday 15th. Dined early and afterwards drove to Hallaton, row on water &ct, Benjⁿ came for tea, drove us home, very pleasant day.

Sunday 16th. Eliza C.'s birthday, age 20. Chapel morning and afternoon, looked over large bible.

Monday 17th. I and Eliza had a pleasant drive to Ayston & Preston, Mr & Miss Edwards and Mrs Edwards took tea with us, musical evening, the ladies played duets (sic), Mr C. the cornopean.



Tuesday 18th. Benjⁿ at Melton, we had a very pleasant drive to Bisbrook, Glaston & Preston.

Wednesday 19th. Called upon Miss Edwards, left the ladies there to have a little music, wrote several notes to country relatives &ct, rather showery day; wet day on Thursday, greatly afraid we should not be able to go to Leicester.

Friday 21st. Benjⁿ at Melton, large fair, wet morning, R. & E. busy packing &ct. Mr & Mrs J. Adams came unexpectedly in the afternoon, money business, thinking of leaving Stratford, they went at 8, sent our boxes by wagon, bustling evening. Chambⁿ obliged to go to Melton with Bank letter, Benjⁿ lost voice.

111 Probably Neville Holt

Saturday 22nd. Started off to Leicester at 2 o'clock, Benjⁿ drove us in gig, Eliza and I behind, Ruth lost seals, man found them on the road, gave him 5/0, arrived at Leicester for tea, Eliza & Henry there and two (?) daughters, H. Hand came at night; my dear husband very ill with violent headache, obliged to go to bed. Mr & Mrs Adams called, scarcely able to speak to them, thus how often is every pleasure mared (sic).

Sunday 23rd. Chapel morning and evening, my dear husband better, truly blessed day, once more to have the privilege (sic) of hearing the sound of the precious gospel.

Monday 24th. Miss Chamberlains called in the morning, went to Browns with them, walked afterwards with Chilly, Eliza and Mamma. Benjⁿ returned home in the afternoon.

Tuesday 25th. Had a car to the Dane Hills¹¹², beautiful day, took lunch in the fields, the children enjoyed it much, called at Mr Chamberlains in the evening.

Wednesday 26th. Had a car to the Abbey in the morning, took lunch, chapel in the evening – myself not very well.

Thursday 27th. The day for departure, Eliza and children went by coach, I and Chilly travelled to Uppingham, Chamberlain drove us, enjoyed the pure air exceedingly, took tea at Tugby, went to Hall gardens, Benjⁿ met us, he went on to Rolleston; Mr Burbank came to meet us, arrived at 8 o'clock, very happy to welcome Chilly at our peaceful Home sweet Home.

(There follow nine pages of poems and one page containing two small sections of biblical criticism and a recollection, in another hand, of a storm on Wednesday 11th June 1835, which damaged St. George's Church and vicarage.)

Friday 28th. Enjoying dear Chilly's company much, walked in the morning, chapel in the Evening, Mr Jay of Birmingham preached, Mr & Mrs George Hart were there.

Saturday 29th. Had a pleasant drive to Seaton & Harringworth, also through Laxton Park, gathered blackberries, enjoyed it much.

Sunday 30th. Chapel morning and afternoon as usual, enjoyed the reading.

Monday 31st. Walked to Wade's cottage, Olive¹¹³ there, very civil & polite, beautiful day.

September 1846

Tuesday 1st Sept^{br}. Called upon Miss Edwards, Hopes &ct., in the morning, Benj at Melton.

¹¹² West of Leicester

¹¹³ Olive Wade, wife of Richard Wade, carrier, of School Lane.

Wednesday 2nd. Walked to Ayston, beautiful warm day, went in the gardens, sat in the churchyard, very pleasant stroll.

Thursday 3rd. Had a very pleasant drive to Burley, Mr Edwards drove, Miss E. on horseback, beautiful day, enjoyed it much.

Friday 4th. Dear Chilly's birthday, presents arrived in the morning, spent the day at Hallaton, discovered that watch was lost, Mr Edwards came in the evening, he and Benjⁿ went to Mr Olivers, bills printed.

Saturday 5th. Mr Edwards went to Oakham to enquire about the watch; Chamberlain brought news that it was found, happy relief, 3 guineas awarded to the girl who found it.

Sunday 6th. Henry Hand came for breakfast, chapel in the morning, they walked to the wood afterwards, dined at 5, he left at 10, beautiful moonlight evening, pleasant day.

Monday 7th. Chilly & I had a long and delightful drive to Dean¹¹⁴, took lunch in the Avenue, enjoyed it exceedingly, lovely weather.

Wednesday 9th. A fair at Oakham, Mr Burbank attended & Mr Edmonds, Benjⁿ busy here, market day, M. A. Hope called in the evening, J. Adams came unexpectedly by evening coach, rode the mare to Tugby, decided upon removing to Lester.

Monday 14th. Chilly & I called upon Mr Gilson¹¹⁵, Mrs Swan & Miss Edwards, packed up in afternoon.

Tuesday 15th. The dear child left by the morning coach, very sorry to part, Benj at Melton, on Saturday 12th, being my birthday, age 29, my dear husband presented a little parcell containing a five pound note; nothing very particular occurred on that day.

Thursday 17th. A time I shall not soon forget, our supposed valuable servant Mary has indeed proved a worthless character, my dear husband drove me to Tugby in the afternoon, M. A. Hope with us, on our return found our faithless servant in a state of intoxication, this being the second time, of detection, we at once decided upon her leaving; on the following day I drove to Cottenham to see a servant who had been living with Mr Hart, named Jane Deen (?), found her disengaged, decided for her to come on the following Thursday. On my arrival home, to my great surprise, Mary had gone, taking with her a bundle & umbrella, Benjⁿ took his horse and rode after her, overtook her 12 miles on the Leicester road, examined the contents of the bundle, then left her to pursue her course; a sad instance indeed of deceit and hypocrisy, this trying and unforeseen circumstance will indeed be a lesson to us, never to place too much confidence in servants again, we may be truly thankful thus to have discovered her deception.

114 Probably Deene Park, Northants.

115 A solicitor, living in High Street West, a significant property owner and mortgage provider with several important roles in the town. (PNL)

Monday 21st. Had Mary Dams¹¹⁶ for a few days, very busy cleaning pantries, kitchen &ct., Mary's nephew came. Took her boxes home on Tuesday, M. A. Hope came to assi(s)t me, very busy all day, washing ???, china &ct.

Thursday 24th. Ann Fanny came from Hallaton to spend a short time with us, our new servant arrived in the evening; Benjⁿ left home for a few days, travelled by coach to Leicester, stayed at Welford Place until Friday morning, (Mr Govers business), letter from Mr Edmonds, sent Chamberlain with it to Leicester, Benjⁿ had left when he arrived.

Saturday 26th. Did not feel very well, on Sunday called in Mr Edwards, did not go out in afternoon, he sent medicine, mustard plaster.

Monday 28th. Rather better in the morning, Mr Edwards went to Leicester, he and Benj came home in gig, in the evening.

Tuesday 29th. Pain in chest still continued, Mr Edwards called, ordered leeches, Mrs Hope came to manage them for me, just up again when Benjⁿ came home surprised to find Dicky so poorly.

Wednesday 30th. In bed until 1 o'clock, taking medicine every 3 hours, very poorly, on Thursday rather better, on Friday Mrs Dexter came, took Ann Fanny with her.

October 1846

Sunday Oct 4th. Still weak and poorly, did not go out, Benj went to Chapel twice.

Tuesday 13th. Our Captain brother came to spend a few days with us, he went by train to Melton, from thence accompanied my dear husband in his gig; rather wet during his visit, on Thursday he and Benjⁿ went to Hallaton after dinner, on Friday 16th Mr Bryan came to dinner. Robert left us on Saturday evening, Chamberlain drove him in gig to Hallaton.

Friday 23rd. Again in trouble about servants, Jane very poorly, called in Mr Edwards, he advised us to sent her home, she went to her Sisters, and on Saturday morning went home, Mr E. considers it fever.

Monday 26th. Very inconvenient having no servant, Sarah Cant¹¹⁷ came for a day or two to assit (sic), poor inanimate creature indeed - obliged to attend to everything myself.

¹¹⁶ Wife of William Dams, an ostler employed at The White Hart Inn.

¹¹⁷ Wife of William Cant, agricultural labourer, who lived in one of the yards off the south side off High Street West, called Spencers in 1841 and Innocents in 1851, opposite 18, High Street.

Wednesday 28th. Saw another servant at Mrs Simson, who had been living at Hallaton with Mr Simkin, very good character from him; Jane not any better, finding a difficulty in meeting with a person to assist, in her absence, decided to send over for the person above named, viz Fanny Tee; sent Chamberlain with a note in the morning, she came in the afternoon, may she prove a suitable servant.

November 1846

Sunday November 1st. John Wade ill, could not attend our little meeting. A very blessed day to me, Mr Gamble was able to read & read Christ's sermon on the mount, the dear Lord was pleased to grant his gracious presence, powerfully serving the begun good work in my soul. A truly blessed change, for of late my mind has been so harassed that I have experienced a cold, dead frame indeed.

Oh! For a heart to praise Him as I ought

Wednesday 4th. Fanny's mother came, anxious to know whether she would stay, having had a weeks trial, and as she appears a quick steady girl, decided to hire her. May she stay with us for some time.

Tuesday 10th. My dear husband's 40th birthday, went to Melton as usual, present of book and purse, beautiful present of a handsome pair of handscreens from Chilly, cake & mince (?) from Mother, pork pie from Rolleston. Mr Hope came to supper, presented a barrel of figs.



Saturday 28th. Passed the rest of the month very happily at our peaceful home, thankful indeed for the numerous blessings we enjoy; the fever very prevalent everywhere, also many suffering from influenza and cholera¹¹⁸, yet we are preserved from these maladies, may the Lord grant us truly grateful hearts, and enable us to praise him as we ought. Eliza Chamberlain still very poorly, Mr Edwards went again to see her; my dear husband not well, the latter part of the month, suffering from diarrhoea, but able to attend to business, he went to Leicester on 29th, returned home on Sunday evening, slept at Mr J. Adam's, glad to find them so comfortably settled; sharp frost set in on this day, previously it has been unusually mild.

A handscreen

December 1846

Dec^{br} /46. Extremely sharp frost continued for three weeks, with occasional falls of snow, deep in some places, the weather more severe than it has been for many years, how different from last year, the winter was so open and mild.

Saturday 19th. Began to thaw, rather mild the three following days, freezing again on Wednesday; snowed the whole of the day on Thursday 24th, I went to Leicester by Mail, Benjⁿ followed on horseback, quite a family party at Welford

¹¹⁸By 'fever' she doubtless means typhus, otherwise colloquially known as 'Irish fever' or 'famine fever', which killed over half a million in 1846-8 (www.kdfhs.org.uk); Lancashire and Cheshire were particularly badly affected and there were hospital ships on the Mersey.

Place, Joe arrived in the afternoon and H. Hand in the evening, Benjⁿ much engaged with ??? ??? until late, pleasant Xmas Eve.

Friday 25th. Truly blessed Christmas Day, the happiest I have ever spent, once more favoured with the sound of the precious gospel, very encouraging sermon from Hebrews 10: 9,10 v.

Saturday 26. Benjⁿ very busy all day, I called at Mr C.'s, Eliza better, Ruth walked home with me, H. Hand left at 6 in the morning, came again in the evening, fine frosty day, snow on the ground, Mr & Mrs Adshead with Mr Bridon – an American, spent the evening with us.

Sunday 27th. The last Sunday in the year 46, a day I hope never to forget, how unspeakable a privilege is the sound of the blessed gospel, yea, how beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who bringeth glad tidings, that publisheth peace; even that peace which passeth all understanding, and how powerful & confirming is the word of God, my dear husband much blessed in the morning, Text Psalm 30th 23 verse, may it be the will of the Lord to enable us to hear more frequently.

Monday 28th. H. Hand left at 8 o'clock, my dear husband also left us in the morning, I took up my abode at Welford Place for a short time, and thus concludes the year 1846.

Oh that our hearts may be filled with gratitude for the numerous mercies and favours granted throughout, and may our chief desire be, as time rolls on, to be enabled to leave the things which are behind, and press forward to those which lie before, seeing this world is not our rest (?), for we seek a better and an enduring substance.

Family Ages in 1846

Name	Birthday	Age in 1846
Benjamin Cort	Aug st 4 th	71
Elizabeth C Cort	March 29	60
Eliza Cam Cort	Augs ^t 10	30
Sarah Cort	Sep ^t 12	29
Joseph Cort	Nov ^b 13	28
Robert Cort	April 13	26
Charlotte Cort	Sep ^t 4	21
Henry Ogden	died Oct ^b 13 th 1838	
Martha Ogden	Sep ^t 23	66
Robert Ogden	Sep ^t 10	45
Elizabeth Ogden	July 25	43
John Ogden	July 10	41
Benj C Ogden	Nov ^b 10	40
Ann Ogden	July 25	38
Martha Ogden	Feb ^{ry} 14	36
Jane Ogden	March 28	31

Memorandums January 1847

Sunday 3rd. I would desire on this day to record the loving kindness of God in thus leading me on to the beginning of another year and for the privilege of hearing the sound of the precious gospel, joining with a few of the Lords chosen ones in singing the usual appropriate hymn

Once more the constant Sun
 Revolving round his sphere
 His steady course has run
 And brings another year

Many will remember the blessed sermon in the morning from Psalm 119th 91st verse.

Mrs Adams of Nottingham with us staying at Welford Place, Mr W. Barker also with us at chapel, the latter suffering deep affliction in temporal matters, the sermon much blessed to him. May the Lord grant us his gracious protection and lead us on to a saving knowledge of Himself, that we may become wise unto salvation.

Monday 11th. Stayed another week at Leicester since I last wrote, returned home on this day, after a quiet and pleasant visit, the weather cold and unusually foggy, went out very little, expect to take tea with friends in the evening, very happy to arrive once more safely at my dear home. Mrs Hart & Mrs Smith travelled with me.

Saturday 16th. My dear husband went his journeys as usual, Mr Edmonds dined with us on Wednesday 13th, Benjⁿ requested the favor of further assistance which, I hope, may be granted, on this day my dear husband went to Leicester, accompanying Mr Oliver in gig, very foggy and extremely cold, freezing.

Sunday 17th. Exceedingly sorry to find a division between J. Wade and Mr Gamble, the latter declined taking any part in the service, Garner read, subject "It is well", J. Wade gave out hymns. How can two walk together save they be agreed. My dear husband at Leicester, may the word of God be blessed to him.

Monday 18th. Called upon Mrs Law, walked with her and had tea with them, very pleasant.

Tuesday 19th. Benj went by rail from Leicester to Melton on Monday morning, from there by coach to Oakham on Tuesday, John took gig to met him, reached home safely in evening, very good spirits, large fair both days.

Wednesday 20th. Mrs Ogden came unexpectedly, Mrs Payne with her, she return by Moreton, deep snow fell in the night, I never remember seeing it so thick upon the trees, Mrs Ogden obliged to remain until Saturday, began to thaw.

Sunday 24th. The snow going very fast, the wind high, and rain, street like a river, went to chapel in morning, I did not in afternoon, read Lawful Captive Delivered by Rev^d J. Osborne¹¹⁹, truly experimental work, he is undoubtedly a sinner saved by grace, and called to set forth the glad tidings of the gospel.

Blessed are they whose guilt is gone
Whose sins are washed away with blood
Whose hope is put on Christ alone
Whom Christ hath reconciled to God

February 1847

Saturday 6th. Very severe weather, the ground covered with snow more or less for the last fortnight, sharp frost, terribly cold for my dear husbands journeys, snowed the whole of the day on Tuesday, Mr Edmonds dined with us on Wednesday 3rd, very pleasant.

Sunday 7th. Chapel in the morning and afternoon as usual. Mr & Mrs Godfrey came home with us in the morning, converse respecting J. Wade.

Thursday 11th. My dear husband went to Stamford, meeting of Shareholders, returned home about 6 in the evening, very satisfactory meeting, present of £20, blest with a truly grateful and thankful heart for innumerable mercies received.

Sunday 14th. Chapel in the morning, J. Wade still continuing to read and Garner giving out the hymns, subject 51 psalm, the reading principally J. Wades own comments, Oh! That we might be favoured with the sound of the pure gospel; what we now hear only tends to bondage and misery, leading the soul to the law instead of to Christ our dear Saviour and Redeemer.

Saturday 20th. Snow all disappeared, quite mild the last three days, Mr Compton and Mr Southam came to dinner and stayed the evening, late when they left, nearly 12¹²⁰.

Sunday 21st. Chapel in the morning, same subject continued, converse with Mrs Hart, went again in the afternoon, had bad headache at night, took Nedhams medicine.

Monday 22nd. Breakfast in bed, head rather better, Mr Edwards called in the evening, ordered more pills and black draught in morning.

Tuesday 23rd. Took draught, in bed until 11, much better in the evening.

119 Osbourn, J., *The lawful captive delivered; or, the prey taken from the mighty, etc.*, published in Baltimore on 1835; first English edition 1844

120 Mr Compton was probably William S. Compton, wine and spirits merchant, just about to embark on a highly successful and influential career in Uppingham, which included taking over the business of Leonard Bell and Charles Healey at The Vaults. Mr Southam, solicitor, was a close neighbour in High Street West. This was perhaps an important start-up meeting for Compton, with his solicitor and bank manager. (PNL)

Thursday 25th. Mr & Mrs J. Adams and Mother came, arrived at 1, dined at 4, stayed all night, Mr A's birthday, Mrs Adams not very well, they left us again at 3 o'clock.

Friday 26th. Dined at 2, had our gig to Tugby.

Sunday 28th. Chapel morning & afternoon, Mr Gamble had converse with J.W. during the week, he did not read in the morning service, very pleasant, conducted by Garner. J. Wade in afternoon, same subject, Benjⁿ read Chapter, Garner absent.

March 1847

Monday 1st. Snow again upon the ground, very cold, I had a cold, very uncomfortable in the evening, busy working for the Irish¹²¹.

Tuesday 2nd. In bed for breakfast, cold better in the evening, favourable day for Benj.

Wednesday 3rd. Mr Edmonds dined with us, and stayed the night, Benjⁿ presented him with a book, he left directly after breakfast on Thursday morning, met the hounds at Billesdon, Benjⁿ came to dinner at 2, Mr Compton with him, they went over to Hallaton together, late home, Mary Taylor came in the evening.

Friday 5th. Dined early, Benjⁿ went to Tugby, Jane & Mrs Adams there, invited them for next Saturday 6th, Mrs Adams came, Jane declined on account of cold, business between her & Benjⁿ.

Sunday 7th. My dear husband poorly, in bed with black draught, I went to Chapel morning and afternoon, same subject continued, Mr T. Gamble came in the evening, pleasant converse, Oh! that the Lord would open a way for a Minister to set forth to us the glad tidings of the gospel, that many in this place might be brought to the knowledge of the true.

Thursday 11th. Mamma came to spend a short time with us, very glad to see her, weather pleasant but rather cold.

Saturday 13th. Benj went to Leicester on Glovers business, returned home on the Sunday.

14th. Mamma and I attended the little meeting, reading very different to the last few weeks, J. Wade read, Garner hymns.

Tuesday 16th. Mother & I walked to Ayston to enquire about lodgings for Eliza Chambr., called upon Miss Grant, beautiful day.

Wednesday 17th. Mamma not well, took dose at night, ??ed about Grantham

¹²¹ About a million people in Ireland died of starvation or epidemic disease between 1846 and 1851, following successive years of disastrous potato blight. See http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/victorians/famine_01.shtml

Thursday 18th. Letter from C's, Benjⁿ met Catlin¹²², he offered his lodgings, drove me over to Seaton and Ayston after dinner, Mamma did not go out, cold.

Friday 19th. Benj went over to Stamford, the grand fair, Miss Clark and Miss Corts accompanied him, arrived home at 6.

Thursday 25th. Walked to Bisbrook, very fine day, the C.'s arrived at Seaton, I met them at Edwards's, Papa arrived quite unexpectedly in the evening.

Friday 26th. Walked in the morning, Mr & Mrs & Miss Godfrey came to dinner, dined at 5.

Saturday 27th. Papa, Mamma & self had a drive in the morning to Seaton & Glaston, called upon the C.'s and Godfreys, Papa not well in the evening, so very sick.

Sunday 28th. Chapel in the morning, Mamma & I did not go in afternoon, Papa very poorly, Mr Edwards called to see him in the evening.

Monday 29th. Papa in bed for breakfast, medicine very troublesome, Mr Edwards called, considers it an attack of Jaundice. Fanny ill in bed all day, her sister here.

Tuesday 30th. Papa & Mamma went home by Mail, at ½ past 8. Benj at Melton, once more quietly settled by ourselves.

April 1847

Friday 2nd (April), Good Friday, one I shall not soon forget. My dear Husband drove me to Leicester, snowed the whole of the way, & exceedingly cold, intended to go on the previous evening, snow prevented, had Mr Laws pony gig, Papa ill with jaundice, Mamma also poorly, Benj staid until Monday morning, rode Mr Law's pony.

Thursday 8th. Papa had operation performed by Paget, I was with him at the time, Chamberlain brought gig for me, returned home in afternoon, very kindly received by my dear husband, glad to meet again.

Tuesday 13th. Went to look over the new house, disappointed to find so little progress, cannot possibly be ready before June.

Friday 16th. Had quite an unexpected party, Mrs Hope & Mr Compton for dinner, Mr Benson, Mr S. Bell, Southam & Mr Hope joined us for tea.

Wednesday 21st. Mr Edmonds dined with us, very sociable and pleasant, left at 7.

Thursday 22nd. The C.'s came over early in the morning, sent gig for them, Miss Edwards dined with us, and staid the day, the C.'s left about 4 o'clock, Miss E. & I spent quiet eveng together, horse came from Lincoln, ill.

¹²² John Catlin junior, who had recently inherited, from his father, the Horse & Trumpet on High Street West.

Friday 23rd. The horse better, Benjⁿ went to Rolleston in the evening, arrived home at 9.

Sunday 24th. Not being well, I did not go out in the morning, a change again at the Chapel, Mr Gamble once more read, he undertook the whole of the service, Mr Garner at Oakham.

May 1847

Sunday 2nd. A truly blessed day, chapel morning and evening, Mr Gamble read, Mr Garner gave out hymns, J. Wade took no part in the service, very pleasant evening, my dear husband very sweetly and powerfully led forth in prayer, blest indeed with the spirit of supplication.

Thursday 6th. Mr & Mrs Adams came quite unexpectedly, Benj had just returned from Oakham fair, they left directly after dinner, Mr Real (?) and Son came for tea at 7, Mr Turner¹²³ called in evening.

Tuesday 11th. Very heavy rain in the morning, wet journey for my dear husband, he went in gig, beautiful day afterwards, I walked to Preston to meet him, enjoyed it much, the country looking very fresh and beautiful.

Friday 14th. Benjⁿ went to Stamford, Mr Edmonds from home, I spent the day at Mr Godfrey's, Miss C.'s there, pleasant day, returned home with my dear Friends in the evening, he went to Stamford again on Saturday. Mr Edmonds absent for a fortnight, anxious time for Benjⁿ, money in great request, bread raised again this week, 11d for a loaf¹²⁴.

Sunday 16th. Very happy day, Mr Gamble took the whole of the service, except the hymns, my dear husband was solicited, Garner ill.

Tuesday 18th. Mrs Ogden and E. Billings came over in afternoon, stayed tea, left directly after, Benjⁿ arrived, wet ride home.

Tuesday 25th. Mamma went to Grantham, Benjⁿ met her at Melton, Mrs Bryan and family had tea with us, came unexpectedly.

Wednesday 26th. Benj expected to have to go to London, drove to Stamford after business, Mr Gregory came, settled the business with Mr Brown, no occasion to go to London.

Thursday 27th. Splendid weather the whole of the week, had an early dinner and drove to Tugby, Mrs Hope with us, Mr & Mrs Dexter there, we all enjoyed it.

Friday 28. Excessively warm day, Mrs C. and three daughters came to dinner also Mrs Hart, Miss Edwards joined us at tea.

123 Perhaps their next door neighbour, the Reverend William Turner, Usher at the Grammar School. (PNL)

124 A poor harvest led to these price increases; there were particularly serious repercussions including riots in Cornwall and France.

Sunday 30th. Attended chapel as usual, Garner & Mr Gamble engaged in the service, happy day, J. Wade poorly, not there. Henry Harcourt & friend dined with us, Benj went to Seaton.

June 1847 & July 1847

I would here record the goodness and mercy of God in providing for us a change of habitation, by Him alone is the bounds of our habitation fixed and I can truly say that our only desire is that the Lord may bless us with his gracious presence, that we may be led to magnify his ever blessed name, and that the things of this world may not take an undue part of our attention but may we be enabled to follow on to know the Lord, and may it be our chief concern to finish well our race. Choose Thou the way, but still lead on.

We removed on the 1st of June, dear Chilly kindly rendered assistance, staid with us until the end of July, L. Broughton spent a week with us, Mrs Bowton (?) also arrived from America with Baby, stayed a few days, very unsettled time, we all travelled together to Leicester on the 24th of July, I stayed a week, went on to Shilton for a day with Mr & Mrs Adshead & Mamma & Papa, enjoyed it exceedingly, Miss Bea?? staying at Welford Place, had drives in cars, enjoyed the visit much.

August 1847 & September 1847

Saturday 7th. Benj came to Leicester in the evening, stayed Sunday, returned home together on Monday; rather unsettled time, expected to go to Leicester again in a few weeks to meet Eliza & Henry, they went to the sea sooner than we expected therefore we declined, went again on the 11th Sep^t, very beautiful day, enjoyed the drive, arrived at 3 o'clock, Miss Godfrey there; Sunday my birthday, which was not forgotten, many kind wishes &ct, we returned home on Monday, started at 5 o'clock, very wet morning, Miss Godfrey intended to come with us, but declined on account of the rain. Benj went on to Oakham, sad accident on his return, we have cause for gratitude that it was not more serious, the foot & hand very much hurt, suffered great pain during the night, applied hot formulations &ct. Burbank attended Melton, expected E & H & Mamma & Papa on the Wednesday, obliged to write to request them to defer their visit, a great disappointment, how very uncertain are all things here, may our hearts be more and more at upon another world.

October 1847

Sunday 10th. This is a day to be recorded indeed, circumstances occurring to convince us of the uncertainty of all things in this life, & how little comfort to be derived from them, letter from C. Billings, Benj obliged to go to Hallaton and Tugby, very wet day, went in gig. A Minister came unexpectedly to the chapel, Mr Drakeford of Leicester, he is indeed one taught of God, heard him very pleasantly, once more forward with a real hope of interest (?) in Christ as my Saviour, after a season of darkness and sadness. Text M Romans 8 C 28, 29 v. Afternoon John 16 C 22 v., Benjⁿ returned home at 11 at night.

Saturday 16th. Benjⁿ went to Leicester to meet Mr Beal, stayed at Welford Place, returned home on Sunday Afternoon, brought Sara Wilkie with him, delighted to see her once more, more than two years have elapsed since she visited us.

Saturday 23rd. The most quiet and settled week I have passed in our new house, enjoying the company of dear Tallie (?), trying week for my dear husband, daily intelligence of Bank failures, letter from Papa containing note on Nott^{ham} for £1000, the Adelphi in difficulties¹²⁵

Sunday 24th. A truly blessed day, chapel morning and afternoon, the subject in morning, the difference between legal and evangelical repentance, Text Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand, afternoon, the woman of Samaria, concluded with the coronation hymn, Garner called in the evening, very pleasant converse, spoke of inviting De Fraine, joined with us in prayer.

Tuesday 26th. I and Sara walked to Gaston (*sic*) to call upon the Godfreys, Benjⁿ stayed at Melton all night, on Wednesday Mr Edmonds came, Benjⁿ in rather better spirits, Chilly returned home from Duckmanton rather hastily, Mamma very nervous and poorly.

Sunday 31st. A day ever to be remembered, Chapel morning and evening, my dear husband read to us in the morning, the dear Lord was pleased to grant unto him a sweet and powerful sense of divine love to his soul, & that we may be truly grateful for every token for good, and may we each follow on to know the Lord, then indeed shall we be blest with true joy.

November 1847

Nov^{ber} How quickly has this month passed away, Sara Wilkie staying with us, Miss Edwards very friendly, Margaret here part of the time, often came in the evening for music, the Miss Godfreys spent an evening with us, weather very open, pleasant for the time of year, walked to Castle Hill¹²⁶, Sara busy with drawing &ct. My dear husband very much hurassed with Bank affairs, a slight sun for a few days, obliged to go to London, I myself in low spirits, much concerned for our poor parents, the Adelphi still in a sad state, contemplating a removal from Welford Place, may the Lord direct our steps at this trying time, knowing not how to act or where to go. On the 24th Mamma went to Grantham, looked over two houses, quite undecided whether to leave Leicester or not, poor father exceedingly low and distressed, may strength be given equal to the day of trial, and may the Lord grant his guidance and direction, stand still and see (?) the salvation of God.

¹²⁵Samuel Bagshaw's History, gazetteer and directory of Derbyshire... 1846 has, at p.672, under Duckmanton, which is near Chesterfield: 'The Adelphi Ironworks are situated at the N.W. extremity of the village of Duckmanton; and the Duckmanton coal company's colliery a little N.W. from the village.' Listed at the bottom of the page are the Adelphi Iron Company and 'Cort Benjamin, Esq. Lodge'

¹²⁶ The motte & bailey located about a mile west of Uppingham on the road to Leicester. (PNL)

Sunday 28th. Mr De Fraine¹²⁷ preached at the little chapel, enjoyed the service much, especially in the morning, the word most powerfully blest to my soul, after a season of great perplexity and distress, Oh how can I sufficiently praise the Almighty for his goodness and mercy. Text Isaiah C 61st 3rd, same in afternoon, the service concluded with the coronation hymn, a truly blessed day indeed, on Monday evening Mr De Fraine called, stayed supper.

Monday 29th. Very poorly, with headache, & palpitation, had Mr Edwards, in bed for breakfast every morning during the week, letters from Chilly respecting leaving Leicester, a most anxious time, on Thursday Benj went over to Hallaton, fixed for Sara and I to go there on the following Tuesday, from thence to Leicester on Wednesday in Mr D's carriage; Saturday Mr Dexter and Skertchley (?) came over; on C. Billing's business, concluded not to go to Hallaton, but to travel direct from here by Mail on Thursday if sufficiently well.

December 1847

Thursday 9th. Left home for a short time, Sara with me, travelled to Leicester by Mail, inside, found poor Father in very low spirits, Mamma at Grantham, as soon as I arrived, Father wrote to desire Mamma to take the house at Grantham, wishing to move as soon as possible, sent for Ellis, commenced taking down furniture.

Friday 10th. A toiling day indeed, packed a great deal of the furniture, very tired when the day was over, poor Chilly to.

Saturday 11th. Nearly finished taking down, busy packing & loading, Benj came over unexpectedly in the morning, returned home by Mail in the afternoon.

Sunday 12th. Thankful indeed for a day of rest, Chapel morning and evening. Oh that this change may prove right in the end, and that our dear parents may be blest with strength, & patience to sustain this time of trial, and may the Almighty yet deliver from impending danger by his all-powerful arm, for vain indeed is the help of man.

Monday 13th. Finished loading the furniture, 4 Vans, Gurden called respecting the sale &ct, J. Barston called in the evening, fixed for Father to go there for a few days, Mr & Mrs Baker called, & Mr Jacques.

Tuesday 14th. Chilly & I up very early, 5 o'clock, started by train at 8, Servants with us, travelled from Melton in a Fly, arrived at Grantham at 12, glad to find dear Mother in better spirits than we expected; dined with the children, then went to the new abode, very comfortable house, waited some time for the Vans, they arrived about 4, commenced unloading immediately, finished late.

Wednesday 15th. Very busy all day fixing furniture, the heavy Van delayed, fears lest some accident had occurred, expected it on the previous eveng, arrived safely at 11 in the mornng.

¹²⁷Minister of the Strict Baptist chapel at Lutterworth

Thursday 16th. Fixing carpets and hanging pictures &ct, getting a little in order.

Friday 17th. The last Van arrived safely at night, unloaded immediately, thankful indeed that all has arrived safely, and in being so favoured in the weather.

Saturday 18th. Ellis finished and left in the afternoon, expected Father, he did not come.

Sunday 19th. Thankful for a day of rest, Mr C. preached morning and evening.

Monday 20th. Still engaged at the house, dined at Eliza's at 5, Charlotte had bad cold, stayed at North Parade, I called upon Mr C., converse respecting the removal, Father arrived in the evening, very low spirits, Chesterfield affairs in a sad unsettled state.

Tuesday 21st. All much cast down, Adelphi the cause, Henry wrote to Youngs, went to the house, C. better, Dined at Henry's, chapel in the evening, truly blessed sermon. Mamma spoke to Mr Chamberlain after chapel.

Wednesday 22nd. Our dear Parents took up their abode on the North Parade, I went with them for a day or two, Chilly better.

Friday 24th. Intended to go to Eliza's for a few days, but declined on account of the children having the Influenza, Henry Hand came at night at 11 o'clock, quite a revival, on this sad Christmas Eve. Father and Mother in rather better spirits.

Saturday 25th. Christmas Day, chapel in the morning, Chilly & Henry did not go out, enjoyed a little peace in the afternoon, sat with them in the drawing room; very cozy.

Monday 26th (sic). Henry went to Bytham¹²⁸, started early, we waited for him in the drawing room, arrived late, 11 o'clock, expected him about 9.

Tuesday 27th (sic). Walked with Chilly and Henry nearly to the Mill, called at Eliza's, Mr Thomp. ill with influenza, H. H. intended to leave in the evening, changed his mind, stayed until morning).

Wednesday 28th (sic). Henry left very early, I took my farewell of Mother & Chilly, spent the day at Eliza's, slept there, the last night.

Thursday 29th (sic). The day of my departure, travelled outside from Grantham to Stamford, terrible weather, snow on the ground, rained the whole of the way, Chamberlain met me with gig at Stamford. Cleared up, sunshine as we approached Uppingham, was received with the greatest kindness by my beloved husband, thankful indeed to meet again, great attention also from Fanny & Ellen. No place like home.

Friday 31st Dec^b. (*This entry actually placed after 1st January 1848*). Very busy time at the Bank, half yearly balance, sat up until after 2, supplying Benj and the clerk with coffee &ct, they kept it up until 5 o'clock.

¹²⁸Presumably Castle Bytham

January 1848

January 1st. Another year commences, not without many proofs of the uncertainty of all things here, daily accounts of sudden death from influenza and other causes, the Chesterfield affair arrived at that crisis that something must be decided, may the Lord deliver by his all-powerful arm, and may we be enabled to "Stand still and see the salvation of God", for vain indeed is the help of man.

Friday 7th. Mr & Mrs Brown¹²⁹ dined with us, had boiled beef, soles first, brace of black game¹³⁰, porcupine pudding¹³¹, pleasant evening.

Monday 10th. Mr & Mrs Dexter came, stayed dinner, had turkey &ct, Mr & Miss Edwards also dined with us, Mary & Matty D. spent the week with us, returned home on Saturday.

Tuesday 18th. Letters respecting Chesterfield, Mr T. and Father went to Sheffield, surely something will be decided shortly.

Friday 21st. Benjⁿ went to Stamford, J. Adams arrived in the afternoon, stayed all night, pleasant converse relative to business, he stayed until Saturday evening, Cham^b drove him to Hallaton, no one at home, went on to Tugby, gig late home.

Sunday 30th. Truly blessed day, service very pleasant in the morning, text "Looking unto Jesus" &ct, the same subject for the last few Sundays. Very severe weather the last 3 weeks, a good deal of snow & very sharp frosts, never felt the cold so much.

February 1848

Thursday 3rd. Still enduring the greatest suspense, nothing decided, this is a time of trial indeed, the Lord alone can deliver.

Thursday 10th. Letter from Chilly, sad, very sad intelligence respecting Chesterfield, (the fiat (?) struck (?)), Mamma decided to leave at once & come to us, Benj at Stamford, sent Cham^b over to let him know, Mamma came with him in the gig, arrived at 5.

Thursday 10th. Continued. Meeting of shareholders, present of £30. Wades sale, went for a short time, very fine day for poor Mother, better spirits than I expected.

Thursday 17th. Mrs Ogden came in the afternoon to stay a few days, on Friday Mr Thos Moore came, stayed dinner, I had a cold on Saturday, still worse on Sunday, did not go out, George Hart there, Mamma went morning and afternoon, Mrs Ogden church in aft.

129 Probably their neighbours Thomas Brown, solicitor, and his wife Mary Ann, of The Court, 10, High Street West.

130 i.e. black grouse

131 Probably basically cream and sugar, studded with almonds for the porcupine quills

Monday 21st. Mrs Ogden went home in the morning, my cold still very bothersome.

Saturday 26th. Benj went to Grantham, accompanied Mr Oliver in the gig, started at 6 in the morning, stayed Sunday, returned home on Monday 28th, myself not well, had Edwards, palpitations &ct.

Tuesday 29th. Very poorly, in bed nearly all day, very sick, taking pills every four hours, rather better in the evening.

March 1848

Wednesday (1st) (March). Mamma not well, both in bed for breakfast, mouth sore with salination.

Saturday (4)th. Both better, had a short walk, pleasant day, weather generally wet.

Sunday 5th. Very wet day, Mamma and I did not go out, Benj enjoyed the service much in the morning. Looking unto Jesus.

Tuesday 7th. Pleasant day, Mamma and I took a walk, had pancakes for dinner, Benj had one for tea. A fair here, bought a workbox, found a new & pleasant walk in Seaton field (sic). The sale of the Houses in Welford Place, nothing sold.

The advertisement for the sale, which had appeared in the Leicester Journal of 3rd March, was as follows:

THE RESIDENCE OF Mr. B. CORT

Situate in Welford-place and Pocklington's-walk, comprising, on the ground floor, elegant Entrance Hall, Staircase, Dining Room, 22 by 16 feet, Drawing Room, 21 by 15 feet, Library or Breakfast Room, 15 by 12 feet, large Kitchen, with cooking apparatus and Hot-air Closets, on the best and most approved principle, Butlers and other Pantries, Wash and Brewhouse, &c. There are eight superior Bed Rooms, Water Closet, Laundry, with Clothes-drying apparatus complete, and Servants' apartments adjoining and communicating, the latter approached by a back Staircase. Extensive Wine, Ale, and other Cellarage.

All the rooms in the Mansion, excepting those used by domestics, are warmed by hot air.

The Out-offices consist of Stable, Coach House, &c., adjoining the residence, with spacious private and well-paved yard.

The principal apartments on the ground floor look upon, and communicate with, a well arranged and beautiful parterre, containing about 400 yards [square yards, presumably], separated from Welford-place by handsome iron palisades.

There is also, on the Western side of the Mansion, a Garden tastefully laid out, containing about 2000 yards [square yards presumably], in which is a Hot-house, 35 feet by 15, and a very beautiful Alcove or Summer House.

The Residence possesses qualities rarely to be met with, being within three minutes walk of the Market-place, and in one of the best business situations in Leicester, while at the same time it commands a view of the country, which cannot by any possibility be obstructed.

The neighbourhood is healthy and genteel. In short, it is, without exception, one of the best houses, in the best locality, that has for many years been offered for public competition.

The above will be offered in the following Lots:-

Lot 1. The Premises occupied by Mr Thornton.

Lot 2. The House, Warehouse, &c., occupied by Mr Foster.

Lot 3. The Mansion, with Out-offices, Yards, Gardens, &c., lately occupied by Mt B. Cort.

Friday 10th. Letter to say the House was purchased by Herbert, for 2,500, note from Paget declining the Gas Shares.

Saturday 11th. Mr Pickering came in the eveng, Benjⁿ spoke to him respecting situations for Robert, and Joseph, he very kindly promised to find employment for both, a little relief to our overwhelming troubles.

Saturday 18th. A most trying week indeed, in great perplexity about the Gas Shares, Benjⁿ went to Leicester, returned in the eveng, Robert came also, in a sad state indeed, could not receive him into our house, he went to Ashwoods, never can we forget the miseries of this day.

Sunday 19th. The saddest day I ever remember, Benj and I went to Chapel, Mamma did not go, Benj called out; supposing Robert was the cause, I followed, found that John had arrived, he stayed dinner, left afterwards, Benj and myself went the chapel in afternoon, I wrote to Robert in the evening; the hand of the Lord is indeed heavy upon us, Oh that submission may be given, and that we may still be enabled to trust a faithful God.

Monday 20th. Received from Robert a penitent note in answer to mine, consented to allow him to come, he spent the day with us and gave an explanation of his conduct, Benj went to Grantham from Oakham to consult Mr T. respecting the gas shares &ct, came home on the Tuesday evening from Melton, Robert left by the Mail in the mornng.

Saturday 25th. Papa and Joe came, arrived at 2 in a chaise from Stamford, Mr Pickering came in the evening, engaged Joseph, he stayed until Monday morning, Papa stayed a few days – most anxious time.

Monday 27th. Benjⁿ went to Oakham, from thence to Stamford; John brought letter for Burbank, also informed us that Benjⁿ would not be home at his usual time, he returned home at 8, bringing the intelligence that Kurney (?) and King had stopped, additional anxiety, on the Tuesday Benjⁿ went to Melton, from thence to Grantham with Mr Edmonds.

Wednesday 29th. Walked with Papa and Mamma to Ayston, went in the Hall garden, very fine day, pleasant and warm.

Thursday 30. Papa went by Mail to Leicester fair in the morning, very wet afterwards.

Friday 31st. Change in the weather, exceedingly warm day, hitherto it has been very wet & cold, cellars full of water, unusually so. Benjⁿ went to Rolleston after dinner.

April 1848

Saturday April 1st. Benj went to Grantham, started at 8, Meeting of Directors to contemplate commencing a new branch, offered the management to Benjⁿ, he stayed until Monday, went to Oakham, home in afternoon, I met him, beautiful day. Mamma went to Leicester by Mail, Mrs Bryan travelled with her outside, very warm day.

Sunday 2nd. Quiet day all alone, letter from Chilly to announce the birth of another nephew, on Saturday at 5, in the afternoon, Mother and infant going on very well, named afterwards Charles Seth¹³².

Monday 3rd. Benjⁿ returned home from Oakham, I met him, Mamma came by Mail, talked over the circumstance of our leaving Uppingham, Mr Edmonds wishes it much.

Thursday 6th. Mrs Ogden and Mrs J. Adams came over, dined with us, change in the weather again, very cold, and rain

Friday 7th. Benjⁿ went to Stamford by Mail, from thence to Grantham on Saturday morning by coach with Mr Edmonds, commenced the New Branch (the Fair), they stayed Monday, Benj attended Melton¹³³, returned home in the evening 11th, Cham^{lain} took gig to Oakham; my dear husband brought intelligence that it was quite decided for us to remove to Grantham.

Wednesday 12th. The new Manager, Mr Barney, arrived in the morning, dined with us on Thursday 13th, very pleasant young man.

Friday 14th. Benjⁿ went to Stamford, from thence to Grantham with Mr Edmonds, returned home on Tuesday 18th in good spirits.

Wednesday 19th. Note from Mr Edmonds, decided for us to have the Bank & House, occupied by Kurneys (?), Mr E. Pickering¹³⁴ called, had lunch. I wrote to Joseph to meet him at Derby on Thursday, and to proceed to Leeds on the following morning, Robert commenced his new employment this week, may they both be industrious, and successful.

¹³² Charles Seth Thompson, son of Henry and Eliza.

¹³³ By the following year he is designated, in the relevant Post Office directories, as manager of the Melton branch as well as Grantham.

¹³⁴ Perhaps a relative of William Pickering of Beaumont Chase, Uppingham, but not of his immediate family

Friday 21st, Good Friday, a very harassing day for my dear husband, Mr Barney & clerks making arrangements all day for leaving, Benjⁿ took his departure for Grantham, went by Mail to Stamford, from thence by chaise with Mr Edmonds, took up his abode for the present at the North Parade. Weather very cold and a great deal of rain, Benj returned home on the Tuesday 25, to Grantham on Thursday, removed to the George.

May 1848

Thursday 4th. Went to Grantham with my good husband, very beautiful day, enjoyed the drive, went to the George, dined at North Parade on Friday and Sunday, at Mrs Thompson's on Saturday and Monday, went over the house, Mrs Kurney (?) with us, returned home on Tuesday, spent the morning with Mrs Burbidge and dined there, pleasant drive home.

Wednesday 10th. Fanny left, having been with us a year and a half, C. Chamberlain came, may he find it a change for the better.

Thursday 11th. Mamma left us having stayed 3 months, went with Benjⁿ in the gig by Stamford. Mrs Dexter came over in the morning, also Mrs Ogden, she spent the day with me, wrote to Ellis &ct, left in the eveng.

Saturday 13th. Very busy turning out boxes & drawers &ct, assisted Mrs Thompson in packing the wine, spent Sunday quietly alone, Garner called in the evening, on Monday Mr Oliver called to pack the books, and on Tuesday 16 Benjⁿ came from Melton, good spirits, Chilly with him, very glad to welcome her, once more we have the anxiety of removing.

Wednesday 17th. Miss Godfrey came in the eveng, staid all night, on Thursday expected Mrs Pickering, she did not come to dinner, only a hurried call, Chilly and I went with Miss Godfrey to Glaston, took tea there, spent a pleasant evening; Weather for the last three weeks very warm & pleasant, no rain.

Saturday 20th. Mr Ellis & Son¹³⁵ arrived in the mornng, packed all the china & glass, Mr Hand came at night, expected Miss Barney, she did not come.

Sunday 21st. The last Sunday I shall spend in Uppingham for the present, Mr Hand & Chilly here, Mr Gamble & Garner out, Mr Godfrey read, Manton¹³⁶ gave out hymns, pleasant service, H. H. left at night, Miss Barney arrived at the same time.

Monday & Tuesday, 22nd, 23rd. The house in a state of confusion, 5 or 6 men taking down and packing furniture, nearly all loaded in the evening, Miss Barney took the White room furniture &ct.

135 Perhaps the fore-runners of Ellis & Everard of Kettering, furniture removals.

136 Possibly Charles Manton, whitesmith, of 3, Leamington Terrace. (PNL)

Wednesday 24th. The day for our departure, finished loading the last wagon by 2 o'clock, a famous cargo, 2 waggons and 2 Vans, they started about 3 o'clock in the afternoon; I took my farewell of Uppingham, started at 1 o'clock. Travelled in Fly, accompanied by Chilly and two Servants, changed horses at Oakham, arrived at North Parade at 5, had tea, then went to take a survey of our destined abode, we all slept at North Parade.

Part 3: Benjamin & Sarah Ogden are resident at Grantham

Thursday 25. Went to the house directly after breakfast, found the wagons had arrived early, partly unloaded, a day of bustle, Benj arrived in the evening.

Friday & Saturday, 26th, 27th. Ellis and men busy fixing furniture &ct., finished in the afternoon and started off home, we took up our abode at our new house, rather fatigued.

Sunday 28th. Attended chapel morning and evening, agreeably surprised to find the service so pleasant, quiet day, had supper at Mr T's.

June 1848

June 1st Thursday. Very busy during the week setting strait and tidying cupboards and drawers, fitting carpets, had Mrs Boyde (?), sorry to perceive the house in such a dirty state, requiring painting and papering throughout, we must even be contented until something is decided between Mr Holt and Mr Edmonds, may it be shortly.

Wednesday 14th. We now begin to feel settled in our new home, pleasant indeed it is again to enjoy the society of my nearest relatives, may the change prove for our mutual comfort, here I would record the goodness and mercy of God in providing for us another comfortable habitation; how little do we know what is best for us, I quite dreaded the removal but now I can indeed say "it is all for the best".

Sunday 25th. Mr C. preached here, thankful indeed to hear once more the sound of the gospel.

Friday 30th. A most anxious week for me, wrote an account of the way in which I have been led, called on the Wednesday upon Mr C., gave it him to peruse, he called after chapel, I forwarded the M.S. to Leicester.

Saturday July 1st. Went to Leicester accompanied by Father and Mother, in a Fly to Melton, from thence by railway, I went to Mrs Adams, Miss C. called in the evening, also Mrs Adshead, Mrs Adams intended to have gone to Burton, deferred it on my account, very kind and sociable, the children at Burton.

July 1848

Sunday July 2nd. A most important day for me; having expressed a wish, by letter, to join the Ordinance¹³⁷, my request was granted, thus I desire openly to testify of the Lord's goodness and mercy who alone hath brought me from the most sinful state, to be a member of his blessed church, may I be enabled to walk worthy the vocation wherewith I am called. Had a pleasant and quiet drive to Shilton.

¹³⁷i.e. to take communion. Communion was 'closed' to all but approved members of a Strict Baptist congregation.

Monday 3rd. Mamma and Papa, with Mr & Mrs Adshead, came in the morning, the latter returned home in the evening, pleasant day.

Saturday 8th. Passed a very happy and peaceful time with our dear kind friends, Papa left on Thursday morning, we returned Sunday 9th, very wet drive, I went to Mrs Adshead(d's). Chapel morning and evening, truly thankful once more to hear the sound of the blessed gospel which proves the savour (?) of life.

Monday 10th. Called upon C.'s, Mrs Adshead with me, converse respecting Brown, went to Mr Stockdales for tea, Mamma & Papa there, we called at Mr Lockwoods in the evening, supped at Mr Stockdales.

Tuesday 11th. Travelled home by rail to Melton, thence by coach, beautiful day, enjoyed the drive. Chilly arrived at Mrs Adsheads before we took our departure.

Thursday 27th. Passed a quiet time at home, busy in garden and greenhouse, many walks with Eliza, Chilly at Shilton, stayed there three weeks, returned home Augst 8th.

August 1848

August 1st. Went to Bottesford with Papa & Mamma, very pleasant time, had double carriage.

Friday 4th. Papa's birthday, age 72, we all dined at Eliza's, walked in the evening.

Monday 14th. Passed a pleasant week, had several discussions respecting a journey to the sea, enjoyed one or two rides on the old grey horse, weather very pleasant; the Misses Garner recommending Scarborough, we decided to go there, busy preparing to leave home, may the change prove beneficial, my dear husband having been suffering from the pain in the face so long, a change is highly necessary. Tuesday, packing up, Benjⁿ went to Melton as usual.

Wednesday 16th. Took our departure for Scarborough, Eliza & Henry, Lizy (?) & H. B., Chilly, husband & self formed the party, had an Omnibus to Newark, from thence by railway, arrived at 8 o'clock, could not obtain lodgings, no room at the Royal Hotel, went to the Bull, had tea and meats; had sick headache.

Thursday 17th. Henry, Eliza & Benjⁿ went in search of lodgings, Chilly and I walked on the sands &ct, lunched and dined at the hotel, went to our lodgings at 6 in the evening, No. 6, Princess Terrace, splendid view of the sea, very bright evening.

Friday 18th. Took a survey of the Castle Hill, very fine morning, rained in the evening, Benj went on the sands, the rest stayed in.

Saturday 19th. Went in the town in the mornng, had a ramble on the rocks after lunch, went to the Pier in the evening, weather fine.

Sunday 20th. Beautiful day, went to the Baptist chapel in the morning with Benj & Henry, the rest went to Church, went to the new church in the evening, so full I did not stay, went to the Plymouth Brethren meeting.

Monday 21st. Rained in the morning, wrote letters, fine in the evening, walked on the north sands.

Tuesday 22nd. Showery, we all bathed in the mornng, walked afterwards, walked on the south sands in the evening, decided to subscribe to the bridge.

Wednesday 23rd. Note from R. C., wrote to her, showery, went on the bridge and to the saloon, explored the gardens, enjoyed it much, band play beautifully, went again in the evening.

Thursday 24th. Went to Filey by rail¹³⁸, beautiful ruin of a rough natural bridge¹³⁹, very tired, lunched at the Royal Hotel, arrived home at 6.

Friday 25th. Spent some time at the Saloon¹⁴⁰ in the morning, afterwards went to Olivers Mount¹⁴¹, very warm day, splendid views, had a row on the water, rough round the point.

Saturday 26th. Wet morning, bathed, walked on the north sands in the evening, gathered stones.

Sunday 27th. Went to St Mary's in the morning, to St Thomas's in the evening, heard Mr Whiteside.

Monday 28th & Tuesday 29th. Two pleasant days, went to Scalby Mill¹⁴² on donkeys, busy shopping &ct, went to the Saloon in the evenings, began to think of returning home, weather pleasant.

Wednesday 30th. Busy shopping in the morning, packed up in the afternoon, walked to the bridge and Saloon for the last time.

Thursday 31st. The day for our departure, breakfast at 6, left at 7, travelled by rail to York, then to Derby and Melton, by Mail to Grantham, rained, obliged to ride inside, Miss Langwiths then arrived at 6, thankful indeed once more to reach our quiet home in safety.

¹³⁸The rail link to Scarborough had opened the previous year.

¹³⁹Filey Brigg, an impressive group of rocks jutting put to sea, is believed by some to have been the remains of a Roman breakwater, rather than a natural phenomenon.

¹⁴⁰The Spa Saloon, i.e. the main public room, for relaxation or events such as concerts, associated with the spa.

¹⁴¹An area of high ground overlooking the town, named, for reasons of doubtful merit, after Oliver Cromwell.

¹⁴²Old Scalby Mills, a building housing the town's first water mills, was built in 1771 and rebuilt, following a fire, in 1821.

September 1848

Saturday 2nd. Engaged in unpacking and setting straight, never more thankful to be once more at home again, disappointed that we have not received more benefit from the journey.

Sunday 3rd. Chapel morning and evening, enjoyed it much, very different to anything we heard at Scarborough, it is indeed an inestimable privilege to meet with those whom we believe to be of the true faith.

Thursday 7th. Eliza & Henry, Chilly & Children arrived home from Scarborough, thus we have all once more met in safety, may grateful hearts be given for so many mercies at home and abroad.

Saturday 16th. Passed a quiet time at our comfortable house. Weather very pleasant, walks with Eliza and children in the evening.

Monday 18th. Sara Wilkin came to spend some time amongst us, Benjⁿ brought her in gig from Melton, had tea with us, afterwards went to North Parade, stayed there for the pres(ent).

Thursday 21st. Formed a party to Belvoir Castle¹⁴³, Mr Edwards arrived with Benjⁿ from Uppingham before breakfast, quite unexpectedly, he went with us, took his horse, lunched in the arbor(?), went over the Castle, grounds, &ct, weather very delightful, enjoyed the day exceedingly.

October 1848

Oct^{br} 2. Began to pull down the old stables, made sad work in our little garden.

Thursday 5th. We all went to Belton (except Benj, very busy), very delightful day, the grounds in most beautiful order, went to the Pilla (?), row across the water, &ct. Sara came to stay with us for a time.

Thursday 19th. Mrs Butlin staying at Mrs Thompn, we all went to dine at Henrys to meet her, Harvy's (?) there &ct, quite a large party, shocking fun, can't write at all.

Saturday 14th. My dear husband still suffering exceedingly from toothache, pain in the face, &ct, obliged to have a tooth extracted by Mr Mather¹⁴⁴ in the evening, Sara in the room & Hannah.

Wednesday 18th. Letters from Joseph, very ill, obliged to leave his situation under Pickering, Robert also has left him & engaged with another Contractor, Sara staying with us, weather wet. My dear husband very poorly, obliged to consult Mr Mather, long converse with him, continued to attend for some time, diarrhea &ct.

¹⁴³Visiting the castle was evidently thoroughly acceptable to the Duke of Rutland. Indeed White's directory of 1846 states: 'Belvoir Castle ... has acquired a celebrity by no means confined to England; for scarcely any foreigner of cultivated taste, visiting this country, omits the gratification of visiting it.'

¹⁴⁴ Probably Robert Mather, surgeon

Thursday 26th. Busy preparing to leave home, Chilly and Sara promised to become house keepers in my absence, agreeable arrangement. Saturday 28th. Left home for a short time to visit the C.'s¹⁴⁵, travelled by Mail to Melton, from thence by Train, arrived at 11 o'clock, very kindly received, may it prove a pleasant (sic).

Sunday 29th. A truly blessed day, once more favored with the sound of the gospel, texts taken from the 40th of Isaiah; in the evening the word was abundantly blest to my soul, producing that sweet peace, joy and comfort which the Lord alone can give.

November 1848

Saturday 4th. Passed the week very pleasantly indeed, very wet, did not go out much, had tea at John Adams on Friday, he was at Liverpool, decided for C. Billings & family to go to Australia¹⁴⁶, expected to sail in a fortnight or three weeks.

Sunday 5th. Very blessed day, text in the morning Psalm 65th: 9th, 10th. Ordinance, enjoyed the service much, this is the second time I have joined in the blessed ordinance of the Lords supper.

Monday 6th. Went to call upon Mrs Adams, went with them to see their new house, stayed tea.

Tuesday 7th. The Miss C.'s went with me to look over the new Amphitheatre¹⁴⁷, Mrs Adshead, S. Barston (?) and Mr Germans (?) came for tea, Mr A. afterwards.

Thursday 9th. Returned home after a pleasant, quiet and happy visit, I shall ever look back upon this week as a time of sweet refreshing from the Lord; the work of grace more and more confirmed in my heart, the Lord granting strength to endure the race set before me. Oh that I may be kept nigh unto Him, and that more time may be given to reading, meditation and prayer

Monday 13th. Sara left us having stayed just 2 months, travelled with Benjⁿ in gig to Melton, from thence by Train. Chilly and I in bed for breakfast, stayed with me a little time longer, both had bad colds, breakfast in bed together for several mornings, I could not go out on Sunday following, cold worse.

Monday 20th. Commenced papering and painting, the others cleared, ceilings cleaned & whitewashed, Chilly stayed the week with me, on the Thursday 23rd Benj at Spalding, meeting of Directors, left home on Wednesday afternoon, returned on Friday morning, not very good spirits.

145 i.e. the Chamberlains, in Leicester.

146 They remained in Australia. Charles died in Melbourne in 1874, Elizabeth in 1886.

147 Built, at a cost of £8000, as a rival to the Theatre Royal and opened in 1839 or 1840, the Amphitheatre fronted Humberstone Gate, consisted of a large theatre and circus combined and could hold 3000. It failed as a speculation and was pulled down in 1848, soon after their visit. (T. Fielding Johnson: *Glimpses of ancient Leicester*, Leicester, 1906)

Saturday 25th. The Attics finished, very dirty work, shall be glad indeed when it is over.

Sunday 26th. Very pleasant day, chapel mornng and evening, supped a Henrys, converse Brown.

Thursday 30th. A very busy week, house all in commotion, began our room on Monday, chose papers for staircase, drawing room & ct., letter from R Ogden stating that Mr & Mrs Billing and family went on board on Monday 27th, expected to sail in a few days, may this great change prove for their good.

December 1848

Monday 4th. Busy preparing for the repairs in the kitchen, turned the dining room into a kitchen, took up carpet, removed nearly all the furniture up stairs, kitchen articles also, very tired at night.

Tuesday 5th. Began to take up kitchen floor, & finished on Wednesday, then commenced painting, did not finish until the following Tuesday.

Thursday 7th. Our room still unfinished, weather hitherto very open and mild, many sunny days, more like Spring than winter. Mr Thompson engaged with Emminsons affairs, their new offices building, Chilly heard of Mr Patons death, Henry very much perplexed with Stantons.

Sunday 10th. Once more favoured with the glad tidings of the gospel, our dear Minister spoke from Isaiah 46C, 4th verse, very excellent and encouraging discourse in the evening from same text. We dined at North Parade, supped at Henry's. Oh that we may be more & more anxious to make our calling and election sure, seeing how unsatisfactory are all things here below; on Monday we met Mr C. at North Parade for tea & supper.

Tuesday 12th. Chapel in the evening, text: "The electer (*should be "election"*; Rom 11: 7) hath obtained it, but the rest were blinded"

Wednesday 13th. The worst day for me yet, all the articles removed into the kitchen again, the spare room entirely emptied, ceiling commenced, our own room once more straight, had tea there and enjoyed a little peace in the evening.

Thursday 14th. Began the dining room floor, found the bookcase must come down, sideboard & ct also removed, Eliza & Chilly assisted me in collecting together the china and glass and replacing them, we dined at North Parade.

Friday 15th. The dining room and spare room still in progress, my poor husband had violent sick headache in the evening, myself not well.

Saturday 16th. Still not well, pain at chest in the morning, Chilly came, had a walk together.

Sunday 17th. Much better, Chapel morning & evening, peaceful day, long talk with servants, my dear husband more comfortable than usual.

Monday 18th. A fair here, Mr Edmonds came, had lunch, very civil. Benjⁿ in good spirits, Papa & Mr Wilkinson had tea with us, Papa stayed supper; on Tuesday Benj went to Melton, did not return until Wednesday night, Chilly came to tea and stayed the night with me.

Saturday 23rd. Winter set in, very sharp frost the last few nights, beautiful sunny days, pleasant walks with Eliza, Chilly and children, troublesome letters from Rotheram (?) bank, Mamma very low spirits, also letters from Robert & Joseph, both out of situations, R. had not written since he left Pickering, 3 months past.

Sunday 24th. Frosty day, Chapel morning & evening, Mr Hand once more made his appearance, arrived at North Parade on Saturday night, 12 o'clock. Very pleasant service in the evening, Owen on 130 psalm¹⁴⁸.

Monday 25th. Christmas Day. Henry Hand and Chilly came to dinner (in the drawing room still), Jane Garton (?) and William dined with the servants, Mr Garton to tea, old English fare.

Thursday 28th. Tea at Elizas, Mr Hand S^{nr} there.

Saturday 30th. Benj very busy in bank, yearly balance, up until 1 o'clock, Jane here, finishing the dining room, thankful indeed shall we be once more to have a settled time.

Sunday 31st. Once more in the dining room, having been turned out exactly 1 month, thankful indeed to enjoy a little peace, and a comfortable room, may hearts of gratitude be given.

Dec^{br} 31st 1848. Another year has passed away, one which will ever be remembered by numbers, history will record the many wars, and rumours of wars, the French revolution, the sad state of the Irish &ct &ct¹⁴⁹; we do indeed live in most perilous times, yet our God is ever faithful, guarding and protecting his church in the midst of surrounding danger, and every circumstance is by his divine appointment; as an individual I may also record the wonderful ways of God for it has been a year we can never forget, last year at this time our dear Parents had just removed here, how little did we think that in a few months we should also be removed to the same spot, however such has been the will of God, & may he, who hath thus brought us together, also unite us in that bond which even death cannot separate, tribulation has indeed been our portion yet we have cause for thankfulness, to my dear husband and self it has also been a most unsettled time, first the removal here, then the journey to the sea, my visit to Leicester, the departure of Mr Billings and family to Australia, and lastly the toil, labour and unpleasantness occasioned by the repairs, papering & painting the house, of this we should not complain but ought indeed be truly thankful for so comfortable a habitation, may the dear Lord grant us a little rest and peace when completed.

148 John Owen (1616-83): *Practical exposition on the CXXX Psalm*, London, 1669 and many later editions.

149 E.g. a rising against the Bourbons in Sicily; a revolt crushed in Prague by the Austrians; a rebellion in Sri Lanka; revolution in Hungary; start of the first Schleswig War; in France, King Louis Philippe abdicated and a republic was later declared; a nationalist revolt in Tipperary.

Oh how little can we tell what lies before us, or how long we may continue in this world. Truly I can say

My soul longs to be set free

not only that I may be delivered from care & anxiety, but also that I may no more dishonour my dear Heavenly Father by sin, coldness of heart, and forgetfulness of his mercies, yet I desire to wait his appointed time. He alone can keep me near unto his ever blessed self. Oh that I may be more prayerful, more watchful, that whenever the dear Lord calls me, I may be prepared to meet him, and to dwell for ever in that heavenly kingdom where sin and sorrow, with all the causes of them, shall be for ever done away. Grantham Dec^{br} 48.

January 1849

Another year commences and oh how true is the foregoing remark at the conclusion of last year for indeed we know not what lies before us. Little did I then think, ere one month had passed away, we should become a family of mourners. The dear Lord has been pleased to take away our poor brother Joseph, the nearest relation whose loss I have been called to endure; oh the heartfelt sorrow caused by such a bereavement! Especially when we have no real testimony that the soul was prepared for the solemn change. Oh it is indeed more than human strength can bear, may the Almighty grant his supporting arm, and sustain us in this overwhelming affliction.

The mournful intelligence arrived on Saturday from Tho^s Adams, our poor dear Brother departed on Friday 19th, was interred in the Cemetery on Wednesday 24th. Mother & Father went to Birmingham on Monday 22nd, stayed the week.

Febryray 1849

February 29th A month of deep sorrow & grief, lamenting the death of our dear Brother, and greatly excersised on account of his uncertain end, the dear Lord has been pleased to place a keen edge upon this our deep affliction; we know, with Him all things are possible, and "He doeth as he will with his own" in His dear name, we would therefore desire to trust, and truly I can say; "As afflictions abound, consolations abound also", in every dispensation the dear Lord, in his own good time, enables us to discern his overruling, unerring hand and to bow with submission to the will of an alwise God; these deep afflictions lead us more & more to prize the work of grace in the heart, for were we not favoured with consolation from above oh whither should we flee! no other refuge! no other solid comforter! and at times when the heart is pressed down with grief, and the Almighty is pleased to withdraw his presence, what a sweet solace to recall the first dawns of grace, the many real tokens for good; ignorant then of the trials, difficulties and dangers we have to pass thro', we could indeed say "It is good for us to be here", these refreshing seasons oftimes return, but we must not expect too much indulgence or this world would not be one of tribulation

Here perfect bliss can ne'er be found
 The honey's mixt with gall
 'Midst changing scenes and dying friends
 Be Thou my all in all.

In looking back upon our chequered pathway, we may, in every circumstance trace the love and faithfulness, that have attended us through all our journey, and at the last we shall with grateful hearts own

Grace kept our roving feet
 Treading the heavenly road
 And new supplies each hour we meet
 While travelling home to God

When shall I see that happy place
 And be for ever blest
 When shall I see my Father's face
 And in his bosom rest?

March 1849

March 31st. This is indeed a world of change, last month was one of mourning for the loss of one poor Brother, and now our singular brother Robert is married and on his way to Australia. The event took place on the 10th, he brought his Wife here on the 14th inst, left again on Friday 16th; she appears a well disposed, pleasant person. Oh that this change may be the means of leading him to settle down to a business life, he certainly appears to look forward to the future with hope and energy¹⁵⁰. They sailed from London on the 19th, from Plymouth on Sunday 25th, this matter has rather cheered us, yet sorrow and distress appears to be our portion; this month poor dear Chilly is the cause, poor child she has indeed passed through many troubles, that the present is the most trying of all:- for some weeks the greatest suspense and misery has been endured, caused by many suspicions with regard to Henry Hand, the first disclosure was from letters found amongst poor J's private papers. Papa wrote to him; answer not satisfactory, Mr Thompson then wrote, wishing him to come, this he declined; letters from William, very sad accounts of his conduct towards Mantons (?), Charlotte wrote to Ann, every report confirmed, very kind and sympathizing letter, the poor child resolved to bring the matter to a close, and thus ends an intimacy of seven years, yes! For seven years the greatest confidence has been placed in her supposed faithful Henry, we did indeed believe him to be honourable, straightforward and persevering in business, but oh the deceitfulness of man, he has proved the reverse of all we anticipated. Poor dear Chilly, my heart grieves for her, the one bright speck of joy which in all her sorrows proved cheering is gone; oh that her heart may be given to Him who hath said "Son, (a Daughter) give me thine heart", then there will be no

¹⁵⁰ Sadly, he seems to have died at Geelong in 1853. (<http://trees.ancestry.co.uk/tree/10021162/person/-709398520/fact/4529768036>)

disappointment, the dear Lord is ever faithful, ever gracious, may His dear name become very precious to her soul, and may peace and consolation be granted at this trying hour.

April 1849

April 30th. Very cold weather, snow and frost, myself far from well, under Mr Mathers care, on Good Friday (6th inst) Jane and Tho^s Adams were here, came on the previous evening, left on the Saturday morning, converse respecting our poor Brothers &ct. Ah I feel as though I should never cease to grieve for our poor Brother Joseph, the dear Lord alone can relieve the burden of my heart, and poor Chilly too, it is indeed distressing to see her; so uncomplaining, and yet it is very evident how much she feels, may divine consolation, for all here are but miserable comforters to her; how very much these trials effect my health, causing palpitation, and that wearying pain at the chest, obliged to have Mr Mather, for a length of time, enjoyed sweet comfort on Sunday evenings, the subject has been, for several Sundays, Owen on the 103 Psalm, it is indeed full of consolation and has been abundantly blest to my soul. Oh what a mercy to find although in the world we have tribulation yet in our dear Lord & Saviour we have peace.

May 1849

Augst 31st. Circumstances of so much importance occurring at the commencement of the year has caused minor incidents to pass away almost unheeded yet I will note, by way of reference, 1st, my journey to Leicester for the first Sunday in May, went on the Saturday, stayed at Mrs Adsheads, Sara there on Sunday, enjoyed the service much, particularly the hymn "Say poor sinner, lov'st thou me", in the morning sat with Sara, Ordinance in the evening, returned home on the Tuesday, still far from well.

June 1849

June 13th. Mrs Hope came and stayed with us until the following Wednesday, on the Thursday 14th we all went to Harrowby for tea, very pleasant evening.

Monday 18th. Our dear friend Mrs Sheldon came to spend a little time amongst us, had not seen her for seven years, met her at the coach, Papa then took her to North Parade, Chilly very much pleased to see her dear Friend, stayed there until Thursday week, on which day we went to Belton, then came to our house, and stayed until Thursday, my dear husband had sickheadache on the Monday Evening.

July 1849

July 16th. Papa went to Ireland, remained from home a fortnight, went to Dublin, Belfast &ct, brought a favourable account of the Gas Works. Cough very bad after his return.

Monday July 28th. Henry & Eliza with 3 oldest children and Chilly went to Yarmouth, stayed three weeks, returned home Augst 9th.

August 1849

Tuesday Augst 15th. Ellen left and Lucy Hardy came, may the change prove for the better.

August 6th. A general commotion in the Bank, began to make the alterations at the entrance, obliged to have sitters up all night, also a watch, thankful indeed when completed.

Augst 26th. Very pleasant Sunday evenings, Mr Pape (?) has been reading sermons by Whelch (?), also an account of his life.

September 1849

Sept^{br} 1st. Left home to spend some time at Leicester and in the country, enjoyed the change very much, did not return until Saturday 29th, away the whole month, very much better in health, determined to have a reform with regard to dinner hour, commenced dining at two, very thankful to be once more settled at our dear home.

October 1849

October 29th. Time rolls on apace and has brought us through the autumnal month of Oct^{br}, all around reminds us of nature's decay and we know not how soon our earthly vessel may be consigned to its resting place, Oh that our whole soul may be more and more devoted to high and heavenly things, that when our end shall come, the spirit may be prepared to meet its dear Redeemer and to say Come Lord Jesus, Come quickly. How many at this time are plunged into the deepest sorrow and distress, having lost their nearest and dearest relatives by death, sudden death! The Almighty has been pleased to visit our land with a most fearful malady (The Cholera¹⁵¹), yet blessed be his dear name, we have been mercifully preserved and now it appears the Lord has sent forth the command "hitherto shalt thou go but no further", in wrath he remembers mercy, and proves his faithfulness in thus staying his mighty hand, may these judgements be the means of bringing some to repentance, and may sorrowing hearts of the Lords family be enabled to say, and to feel Thy will be done.

151 In the summer of 1849 over 33,000 people in three months died of cholera in Britain. (<http://www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/DIScholera.htm>)

November 1849

Nov^b 1st. My old pain returned, obliged to have Mr Mather, Eliza very poorly, exceedingly weak, faint, and headache, continued some time, Mr Mather attended; on the sofa generally.

Tuesday 6th. Letter from Sara, saying Mrs Wilkin had been dangerously ill, Mary also ill of scarlet fever, I wrote to her, little Chilly also ill.

Saturday 10th. My dear husbands birthday, presents the Portfolio, Chilly a purse, commemorated the day on Monday, Mamma & Papa, Eliza & Henry, & Chilly with Mr Pape came to dinner, Lucys Mother & Father also Mrs Gaston (?), dined in the kitchen, soup, roast beef & wild ducks, plumb pudding &ct, pleasant evening.

Saturday 17th. Eliza much better, able to go out again, myself still suffering from pain, taking medicine &ct, letter from Sara informing us she had been very ill with bilious fever, Mrs Adshead as well as could be expected, having given birth to a little son¹⁵² on the , poor Chilly's illness proved Tiphus fever, still very ill, but out of danger, it is indeed very trying for dear Ann just at this time, may strength and support be granted and may the dear child be restored to its affectionate Parents.

Sunday Nov^{br} 25th. Once more favoured with the sound of the gospel; enjoyed the service much in the evening, Mrs Weightman had tea with us, on Monday Mr C. spent the evening with us, Mrs Allen of Harrowby came, Eliza, Papa & Chilly, tea in drawing room, supper down stairs, pleasant evening. Could not enjoy the service on Tuesday eveng, pain in chest so very bad, poor husband also had very violent sick headache.

Saturday 24th. Surprised indeed to hear of poor Mr Raby's death, only taken ill on Thursday and expired on the Friday night at 12 o'clock. It appears singular indeed that the Almighty should be pleased to take away so hastily one of his chosen ones, one so useful to his people, especially to the poor of the flock, many indeed will lament his loss; the funeral took place on the following Friday, I with Papa & Mamma went to the church, Mr & Mrs Harvery (?), Miss Allen and several others were there; on the following Sunday, funeral hymns were sung in the mornng, in the evening a most impressive sermon was read, "Father with they hands commend my spirit", forget not this memorable evening !!

December 1849

"Another year is added to the mass of buried ages", a year fraught with many trials, yet amidst all, if we ask the question "Lacked ye anything", our answer would be "Nothing"; no, the dear Lord has indeed been faithful to his promise, granting strength equal to the day, and with truth we may say "every trial works for good", even the last month has been one I can never forget, although suffering much from severe pain, yet I can indeed say the "inward man has renewed day by day", indeed it is impossible to describe the perfect peace and submission with

152 Charles H. Adshead, 4th child and first son.

which I have been favored, I feel to have been deeply impressed with the solemn approach of death, whenever it may come, oh that my mind may be kept in this solemn, confiding state, simply resting upon and trusting in the righteousness of our ever blessed Saviour, with him, and the Father, and ever blessed Spirit, be all honour & praise now and for ever. Amen. Dec^b 29th/ 49

List of Plate 1849

Coffee pot	1	Set of castors	1
Tea pot	1	Small D ^o	1
Sugar basin	1	Cake basket	1
Cream ewer	1	P ^r of candlesticks	3
Table forks	12	Table forks	6
Desert D ^o	12	Desert D ^o	6
Table spoons	12	Table spoons	6
Desert D ^o	12	Desert D ^o	12
Tea spoons	12	Tea D ^o	18
Gravy D ^o	3	Salt D ^o	4
Butter Ladles	4	Ladles -	4
Salt D ^o	6	Gravy -	2
Soup D ^o	1	Cream ewer	1
		Soup ladle	1
		Snuffers & stand	1

The above is a list of New Plate in 1849, an a/c of the price of each article will be found in S.C.O's writing desk.

Memorandums 1850

Having suffered much from pain in the chest during the last few months, and my general health much affected, I at length decided to try Homeopathy, accordingly left home at the beginning of Feby and went to Mr J. Adams for the purpose of consulting Dr Hanson, he ordered change of diet and medicine, after a short time I began to feel better, remained there a month, Mrs Adams exceedingly kind, after I returned home the symtoms returned, sent for Dr Hanson, continued to follow his directions, and from this time I began to improve; truly thankful indeed do I feel that the means have been so far blest, I begin to see the great difference between the old and new system of medicine, and should the dear Lord grant me returning health and strength, I purpose searching into it, that I may be enabled to administer medicine to others as also to myself, and with a truly grateful heart I acknowledge the goodness of God in leading me to such simple means of relief. March 1851.

August 1850.

Matlock Bath Augst 15th. Here I have been staying for the last fortnight, and can truly say it has been a time of refreshing from the Lord, being much alone, my only enjoyment has been in retiring to some quiet lovely spot where I could contemplate the goodness and faithfulness of our ever gracious God; it was here 15 years ago the dear Lord was pleased to restore me to health after a very severe illness, and when I think of the many, many special mercies received since

that time, my heart is indeed overwhelmed with gratitude; at that time my mind was in darkness with regard to spiritual concerns, and must have continued so, had not the dear Lord been pleased to look upon me, and call me by his grace out of a world that lieth in sin and wickedness; and now I enjoy the marvelous light and liberty of his precious Gospel, oh how great is his love to unworthy sinners, and how merciful and gracious is the dear Lord in granting to me, that sweet peace, that real, solid joy and rejoicing in his name known only to those "whose names are written in Heaven"; how faithfully hath every promise been fulfilled, viz. "In the world ye shall have tribulation but in me ye shall have peace" also. Afflictions are for the present not joyous but grievous, yet afterwards they yield the peaceful fruits of righteousness.

The cause of my visit to Matlock was on account of poor Mother Ogden who has been suffering much from rheumatism. I joined her at Buxton, there I stayed one week, then came here, poor Mother cannot go out except in a bath chair, this little change may prove beneficial to me also, for the pain at chest still is troublesome at times, though much better than it was. I do earnestly desire to praise the dear Lord who has so far blest the means used, may I be favoured with patience and submission to his divine will at all times

December 1850

Dec^{br} 1850. Having written daily in my pocket book this year, I will merely add since I last wrote my health has been gradually improving, which is a mercy indeed. This is such troublesome paper to write upon that I have decided merely to note anything particular, and to continue daily memorandums elsewhere. I find it pleasant to look back and consider the way the dear Lord hath led me, in this wilderness, many trials have been appointed for me, yet the Lord hath graciously delivered me out of them all, and the text is indeed fulfilled, "In the world ye shall have tribulation but in me ye shall have peace", I desire to bless the dear Lord who hath granted me at times that peace which passeth all understanding.

January 1851

Wednesday 1st In contrasting the commencement of this year with last, how can I ever be sufficiently grateful to the Giver of all good who hath thus granted so great a change; last year I was suffering from severe pain and feared it would never be removed, now I am quite restored and can enjoy food as others, am also able to attend with comfort to the duties appointed for me; before, they were at times a burden indeed. Oh that I could find words to express the gratitude of my heart!

February 1851

Spent this month at Birming with Mr & Mrs T. Adams. Jane gave birth to a little girl on the 20th January, afterwards named Sarah Emily¹⁵³, I left home on the 29th, arrived at Birmingham at 6 in the eveng, very kindly received, Jane going on well, I managed the housekeeping for her, rather troublesome servants, John Adams affairs very unsettled, determined not to listen to the advice of his friends, several letters from him; enjoyed several drives after Jane was able to go out again, also spent a day with Mrs Wakeman, and had tea with the Hudsons, thus the latter part of my visit passed very pleasantly, stayed just a month, left on Tuesday 25th for Leamington, enjoyed two days there exceedingly with Mr Cort and Miss Munns, weather very bright, though cold, had some delightful walks; proceeded from thence to Leicester, remained there until Monday, at Mrs Adshead, arrived home March 3rd at 5, unexpectedly to dear Hub, glad and thankful once more to be quietly settled at my dear home.

The diary ends here.

Benjamin died at Grantham in 1880; Sarah lived on in Grantham, at 21, High Street, for a further 15 years. Her Probate valuation was £1142 6s 7d.

Chilly never found a replacement for Henry Hand; she remained in Grantham, dying in 1892.

153 Baby Sarah Emily was the daughter of Thomas and Jane Adams who also lived in Birmingham.

Appendix to Sarah Ogden's diary covering her residence in Uppingham by Peter Lane

BENJAMIN and SARAH OGDEN in UPPINGHAM

Although the Diary's record is personal to Sarah it sheds light also on both the Uppingham scene in the 1840s as well as on her husband's work as bank manager.

One may wonder how well the Ogdens merged with or became part of the Uppingham community. Benjamin had his work that brought him into contact with numerous and varied people; furthermore it required frequent visits to neighbouring towns and to Leicester itself. Clearly his time as bank manager at Uppingham was a resounding success and launched his career. But from a reading of her Diary it is apparent that Sarah stands out as coming from a different strata of society compared with the generality of wives at Uppingham. Her city background and upbringing, her genteel education that included drawing and painting¹, her social life and the 'class' amongst which she moved in Leicester, all was so different from life at Uppingham. Without reading too much into her writing, the visits from and to friends and family in Leicester seem more precious to her than the Uppingham social round.

The Ogdens were Strict Baptists. Sarah was perhaps the more devout, even painfully so, but she is expressing her private thoughts, confessions and hopes to herself. Her husband's attendance at Chapel was less frequent, even on Sundays while of course during the week he was attending to bank business and frequently called away from Uppingham.

The Bethesda Chapel and its congregation appear to have been a disappointment to Sarah. For a start there is a marked absence of socialising with fellow worshippers. There were 120 of them according to the 1851 religious census return - though it must be said that Sarah frequently uses the word 'little' to describe both chapel and flock. In the 5-6 years they lived in Uppingham there is mention of perhaps half a dozen visits to and from Thomas Gamble and John Wade the leaders of the group - Sarah's views recorded in her diary entry dated 26 July 1846 are particularly revealing. Only J Falkner, Mr & Mrs George Hart from Preston (not the Uppingham grocer of that name) and the Godfreys of Glaston are mentioned both in connection with the Chapel and socially.

Part of the problem must have been the lack of a resident minister and inspirational leader at Bethesda leaving the way open for the quarrels and bickering Sarah so deplored. Contrast the many glowing references to the sermons preached at services attended at the family's chapel at Leicester on her frequent returns to her parental home.

Another part of the problem was the difference in the Ogden's background and social status compared with Chapel members. The impression gained from both Diary and contemporary sources is that members of Bethesda's congregation were largely from artisan families. The reputed founder Bellamy was a confectioner and the three who registered it as a place of non-conformist worship were Gamble a saddler, Wade a cooper and Beardsworth a plumber & glazier. In contrast, as a bank manager Benjamin Ogden was most definitely from the professional class used to dealing in large sums of money, assessing the business affairs of others and therefore highly numerate and responsible. His education would have been far superior to most of his fellow worshippers, more literate and wider read (there are references to packing and unpacking his library of books). On weekdays most of the congregation would

¹ See entry of 8th December 1845

have called him 'Sir' yet on the Sabbath it was 'Brother'! Sarah also, as daughter of a substantial businessman and industrialist came from a wealthy and socially more genteel background.

Furthermore the Ogdens came from Leicester and were used to travelling widely on holiday or family visits. Would the majority of their fellow worshippers, born and raised in and around Uppingham, have gone much beyond Stamford, Leicester or Peterborough let alone to London and further afield.

Sarah's social circle, particularly her choice of friends, is revealing. Among the families most frequently mentioned all are either professionals or prosperous shopkeepers from that strata of prominent townsfolk who in the absence of gentry ran Uppingham through the Vestry and the Bench. They were people such as the Laws (ironmonger, later ironfounder) the Hopes (chemist & apothecary), Harts (grocer), Kemps (draper), Bell (wines & spirits merchant) and Bryans (grocer). Also the Bensons (doctor), Edwards (doctor), Bells (doctor), and Browns (attorney). With the exception of the Bryans (parish church), the Laws, Browns and Bensons (unknown) all these families were Congregationalists. In addition most of them owned farm land and those with sons sent them to be educated at the Grammar School (now Uppingham School). But for their different brand of nonconformism, this was the strata of Uppingham society closest to Sarah's own background and where she felt most at ease.

Excepting the Swanns at Stoke Dry, the Bryans and mention of Rev'd Turner, Usher at the Grammar School and the Ogden's close neighbour calling once, Sarah appears to have had no social contact with those of the established church. Neither with anyone identified as Methodists or General Baptists whose chapel was in the property belonging to Cornelius Hill situated next their house.

A noticeable gap in the Diary is mention of marriages and funerals amongst her friends and close acquaintances in Uppingham. The death of her landlady's son John Towell is recorded, as also that in June 1845 of George Hart grocer and husband of her friend Mary Ann Hart. There are a number other similar occasions where one would have expected Sarah to be present or at least to mention them, but none are written down.

The Diary reveals just how much travelling, on horseback, by gig and coach, was involved in a bank manager's job with hazards from falls and inclement weather. In those days, the condition of the roads other than the turnpikes, is likely to have been poor. Visits to neighbouring towns where the bank had no permanent presence was governed by the days of the weekly market and annual fair if there was one. There is however no mention of having to carry sums of cash or weapons for defence against footpads. In the absence of anxieties expressed about attacks may one assume Benjamin did not need to carry money with him?

The Ogdens undertook a considerable amount of entertaining. Many of their guests were friends and relatives passing through or coming to stay - but by no means all. Mr Edmonds, Benjamin's superior in the Bank from Stamford stayed frequently - not at the Falcon or other inn in the town. Besides tea parties for wives and daughters of friends and neighbours, the Ogdens had people to dine two or three times a week. Clearly hospitality was part of Benjamin's work as a bank manager and expected of him. More than one reference to the arrival of wines must be further indication of the scale of their official entertainment.

And not infrequently the dinner guests were men only affairs. Although never stated and there would have been no need for Sarah to do so, these look very much like occasions for discussing and settling bank business - the dinner on 20 February 1847 is an example. Study

of deeds of Uppingham town properties indicate much of shopkeepers' prosperity at this time was based on borrowings secured by mortgaging their properties². Hitherto these had been arranged by solicitors who knew who had money to lend, but from the 1840s onwards the banks were taking over. Sarah's diary suggests how it was done. It is noteworthy that the men named by Sarah in her Diary were shopkeepers, farmers and professionals but not so far as one can tell the local landed gentry, clerics or from the Grammar School.

Benjamin's promotion to Vice-President (19 May 1846) and approval for another clerk at the Uppingham office (22 June 1846) indicates business at the bank was flourishing. At the same time his professional standing in Rutland and regard in which he was held was growing as witness his election as Treasurer of the Oakham Small Debts Court (15 & 20 Oct 1845).

How far had Benjamin made SSB the lead bank in Uppingham by the time he left? The dominant one it appears. By the end of 1845 after only 2 years, the bank's business had grown to the point where they planned building their own premises and manager's accommodation (Nov 1845 and later entries). The building was completed by 1850 shortly after they moved to Grantham. The lack of any mention of Holden or the School's Governors suggests it was Benjamin's successor(s) who secured the School's business. At first the bank's main competitor was Eaton & Cayley until taken over, leaving a later arrival the Leicester Banking Co (latterly HSBC) at 7 Market Place the only rival.

The Ogden's life style requires comment. My understanding of Strict Baptist conduct, especially so at the beginning of the 19th century, is they were teetotal and stayed away from theatres, dances and similar sinful behaviour. Not so with the Ogdens. Sarah made a remarkable amount of sloe gin on 19th November 1842 and often refers to The Bell at Leicester before and after her marriage, yet never mentions visiting any of the Uppingham inns, not even The Falcon, except towards the end in connection with their new lodgings. Theatres are not mentioned at Leicester or Uppingham where plays would have been organised at the School. And Sarah writes (16 June 1846) of attending Holden's first School Speech Day when dinner and dancing was part of the programme. There are also several diary entries referring to unpacking and packing their stock of wine (for example diary entry for 7 November 1842), presumably business hospitality.

Part of this was due to the requirements of Benjamin's work as bank manager and some the result of their way of life at Leicester. Yet the differences are surprising and may have been a further reason for their seeming distance from fellow Baptists at Uppingham.

There are numerous references to both Sarah's and Benjamin's ill health. One does not know if Sarah was a hypochondriac and with no children perhaps had too much time on her hands - though their hospitality schedule even with servants to help, must have occupied much of her day. The town's notorious typhoid outbreak was a generation away. Uppingham enjoyed the reputation of a healthy place to live but by the 1840s there lurked in its antiquated drainage and water supply systems potential for trouble³. The first main sewer was laid a decade after the Ogdens' departure serving only High Street and North Street but not the future Lome House site where the Ogdens lived. Even thereafter at least three quarters of premises remained unconnected and instead continued to drain into cesspits. Compounding the

² Uppingham in 1802, ULHSG 2002, p55; Prof. A Rogers *Prosperous - But Precarious: Mortgages in the Local Economy of Uppingham in the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries*, Family and Community History, Nov. 2005, pp 105-22.

³ Dr Nigel Richardson *Typhoid in Uppingham* Pickering & Chatto 2008, Chapter 1.

problem, there was no municipal water supply. Instead people used shallow wells of which there was one in each yard generally used by occupants of the several dwellings grouped around. Situated in close proximity to cesspits similarly shared, opportunity for cross-contamination was ever present and must have occurred frequently.

Yet burial records for the 1840s show a marked decline in the number of deaths compared with the previous and following decades. There was a spike in the number of deaths in 1848 but this was in part due to the return of plague to the town.

Finally one asks the question whether Sarah enjoyed her time at Uppingham. It made her husband's career. At the start he was an employee poached from a failed rival bank and before his departure to Grantham he had become a Vice President of the Stamford, Spalding and Boston Banking Co. This Sarah acknowledges with gratitude (19 May 1846). Even so, one feels she did not regret her departure- farewells yes, but no recorded regrets at leaving either the town or her friends & acquaintances there (24 May 1848). Contrast the warmth of her comments when returning to her Leicester home and how frequently she did so, with the rather fewer and less positive references to their home at Uppingham. She made friends in the town, but how many of these did she carry with her after their departure ?

UPPINGHAM IN THE 1840s

The Ogdens, especially Sarah, must have found living in Uppingham very different to the life they were accustomed at Leicester. The Uppingham they knew was the community described by Professor Rogers⁴ for the census night of 1851 that took place just three years after they moved to Grantham. In the 1840s Uppingham was, and had been for many centuries past the most important town in South Rutland, not always second to Oakham but looking to Stamford for its business and commercial links. If agriculture was still the most important source of wealth, the town's retail trade carried on through its many shops and weekly market employed more people and increasingly drew the attention of banks from Leicester and Stamford to commercial opportunities offered here.

For several centuries Uppingham's population had been rising as it would continue to the present day. Yet the decade of the Ogdens' residence saw a gross increase of only 34, from 2,034 in 1841 to 2,068 in 1851⁵. During the same period natural increase measured by baptisms over burials amounted to 29, a figure that would have been higher but for outbreaks of plague in 1848 and again in 1850. The remaining 5 persons are assumed to be immigrants, but even this figure could be misleading. In 1851⁶ nearly half the town's population was born elsewhere than in Uppingham. Though some on census night would have been visitors, it looks that significant numbers had been leaving the town and replaced by outsiders. Of those living here in 1841 agricultural labourers followed by domestic servants were the two main occupations. But taking together all those employed in trade & commerce - the numerous retail outlets that supplied the requirements of the southern half of the county - the town's tradesmen and shopkeepers numbered more than half as many again as those engaged directly in farming.

Hitherto townspeople's need for access to capital had been satisfied through local solicitors whose clients, often widows and spinsters, had money to lend so as to live on the interest generated. At the turn of the century there had been two or three short-lived local banks. By 1843 there existed branches at Uppingham of two better founded concerns, one from Leicester and the other from Stamford. To start with their representative attended the weekly markets and annual fair until business was thought to justify opening a permanent office locally. There was steady business financing expansions and property purchases by Uppingham's shopkeepers through loans secured by mortgages on their premises⁷. Benjamin Ogden's time at Uppingham saw the opening of the Stamford & Spalding Bank and its growth to become the largest in the town with its new purpose built premises in High Street West nearing completion ..

Uppingham's prosperity owed much to its position at the cross-roads of the east-west Leicester to Stamford and the north-south London to Nottingham routes. Both had been turnpike roads since 1754. Out of movement of passengers and goods there grew the exceptional number of inns and ale houses, as many as 27 in 1778. Two generations later 19

⁴ Uppingham in 1851, Uppingham Local History Study Group, March 2001.

⁵ VCH Rutland, Vol 1.

⁶ Uppingham in 1851.

⁷ Professor A Rogers *Prosperous - But Precarious: Mortgages in the Local Economy of Uppingham in the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries*, Family and Community History, November 2005, pp 105-22.

or 20 still remained. Coach passengers had the choice of staying at The Falcon, The Unicorn or The Crown, long distance carriers stopping overnight made use of the numerous ale houses leaving a selection of inns for travellers of intermediate means. From these inns also, Uppingham was the start and finish of more than half a dozen local carriers serving neighbouring towns and surrounding villages.

The running of the town was the responsibility of the Vestry. It met annually at Easter under the chairmanship of the Rector or his Curate to elect a churchwarden (the other was nominated by the Rector) and to appoint parish officers - the Town Clerk, Overseers of Highways, Overseers of the Poor, the Parish Constable. By this time the Vestry was losing power to the Justices and to the newly created Poor Law Union, though its officials continued men of importance and influence. In 1843 a new parish clerk was appointed, a stonemason and engraver living in North Street by name of Henry Thorpe.

Outside the Vestry, who else was important and influential? There was a small group of professionals usually originating from outside the town. They were the Rector, his Curate, the Master of the Grammar School and three or four assistant masters. The Congregationalist Minister John Green wielded enormous influence in his congregation and beyond. Joining them were the three or four doctors and surgeons with the Bell family pre-eminent. Also the two solicitors Thomas Brown and William Sheild who had recently changed his name from Gilson. These last, in the absence of an energetic Rector, probably the two most powerful men in the community.

Lacking resident landed gentry there developed instead a wider and more numerous 'establishment' of families, most connected by marriage and business interests. They were the wealthy' shopkeepers, businessmen and farmers whose members besides making up the Vestry, filled the public offices and made decisions how the town was managed. They were shopkeepers such as the grocers Thomas Bryan and George Hart, the draper William Hopkins and businessmen like the bank's landlord the wine & spirits merchant Leonard Bell and his son Samuel. Tradespeople like the Drakes and Thorpes who were stonemasons and builders were men of substance. Power and authority went hand in hand with land ownership. The two largest landowners, Noel and Adderley lived well away, but their agents the solicitors were local. As important was the body of farmers and graziers, landowners and tenants, who worked the surrounding farmland in and beyond the parish. The Ogden's friend William Pickering of Beaumont Chase was one. And from surrounding villages and parishes there were landed gentry and clergy who found Uppingham a more convenient place to do business than Oakham.

All these people - the important, the gentry and the wealthy - would need be cultivated by a new bank manager tasked with setting up the new branch. And it is they and their families whether met professionally or socially who make up the Uppingham scene described in the pages of Sarah's Diary.

In the 1840s, non-conformism was already well established in the town. Since 1820 there had been a Wesleyan Methodist Chapel in Orange Street with the Drakes, builders and masons, its leading members. In greater numbers and by far the more influential, were the Congregationalists at the Ebenezer Chapel in Adderley Street under their charismatic minister the Rev'd John Green. It is said that eventually they came to rival numbers at the Parish Church. Here was found the majority of the town's tradesmen and shopkeepers, with their considerable wealth. The Baptists were divided between two congregations, the one general and the other strict. In 1829 a Particular Baptist Meeting House was opened in a building behind Cornelius Hill's house in High Street West since replaced by Uppingham School's

Lorne House. By the 1840s this had become a General Baptist congregation, the smaller of the two Baptist meetings and soon to disappear altogether. As a consequence, during the 1830s there seems to have emerged and separated from them a group that retained their Strict Baptist principles who began it is thought to meet informally at the house of Thomas Gamble a saddler living in High Street East. In 1845 Gamble and two others licensed one of his outbuildings fronting on Orange Lane as a place of worship for Strict and Particular Baptists they called the Bethesda Chapel. Once open, this was the Chapel attended by the Ogdens.

Sarah Ogden makes no mention of the Parish Church or Clergy in her diary. Throughout this time the incumbent was Rev'd John Giles Dimmock (1817-58) described⁸ by an Uppingham schoolboy as a dear old man, but very aged and toothless. A predecessor Edward Jones had lived at Loddington and Dimmock, on his arrival at Uppingham, received his Bishop's permission to live elsewhere while the Rectory house was repaired. The accumulation of half a century of absences, lethargy and neglect resulted that by the 1840s the influence of the Established Church in the town was at a low ebb.

The Grammar School founded by Archdeacon Johnson in 1584 and kept alive by its generous provision of scholarships and exhibitions to Cambridge University, was about to assume a larger role with the arrival of Dr Holden, Thring's predecessor, in 1846. Under him pupils increased from around 40, to above 60. About a third were children of local families and the remainder boarders, some coming from as far as Edinburgh, Lowestoft, London, Sheffield and Derby.

What then of Uppingham itself? Despite many differences we would have no difficulty recognising the town Sarah and Benjamin knew - its streets, the layout⁹ and most of its buildings. But their Uppingham ended at and was enclosed by the two back lanes, with a scattering of buildings on the north side of the Turnpike and along Ayston Road. Close up against this envelope were market gardens, sheds & hovels¹⁰ for pigs, dairy animals & poultry and beyond them the enclosure landscape with its now well established fields. At first impression buildings might appear dingy, lacking paint or whitewash¹¹, the streets cobbled and everywhere droppings from the ubiquitous horse drawn traffic. The Vestry lacked the desire or capacity for modern standards of street cleaning and landscape maintenance, but since 1839 the streets were lit by gas lamps. The town lacked a water supply relying instead on wells liable to contamination from nearby pit latrines and ash pits found everywhere, even in North Street and High Street East where sewers existed. The yards behind the High Street were squalid, overcrowded and dirty, with numerous children many not attending school.

In High Street East the Falcon, still an 18th century double storey coaching inn¹², would retain this appearance for another generation. Both sides of the High Street there were more than twice the number of shops found today with their Georgian frontages but without the wall of plate glass windows that now hides the street level fronts of these buildings. The only survivors of the former style are Nos 10, 27 & 47 then a baker and confectioner, a bootmaker¹³ and a malster, later fishmonger. In the Market Place shops belonging to Bryan and Laws are changed from what they once were¹⁴ with the old market cross still central to

⁸ School Magazine, Uppingham School Archive.

⁹ 1839 Map of Uppingham. ROLLR DE 1191. III 1.

¹⁰ Hovels, Titchard's Nursery. III 2

¹¹ Nos 33, 35, 37, 41 & 43 High Street East. III 3.

¹² The Falcon Inn as it appeared in the 1840s. III 4

¹³ No 27 High Street East. III 5.

¹⁴ Illustrations 6 (Market island shop & Laws ironmongers), III 7 (HSBC/Bryan's shop)

the open area¹⁵ in place of the Victoria Fountain. Changes to High Street West have been more dramatic. A little group from Baines' Corner to School Lane survives with Tudor House 1 and Manor House opposite that were known to the Ogdens. Their later home at the Horse & Trumpet has gone. Along the street there were as yet no School buildings or fine 3-4 storey Victorian houses. On the north side Nos. 26, 28/30 & 46 survive to show what the street frontage looked like. Opposite, the older Dovecote House and nearby buildings from the late 16th and early 17th centuries have now gone, as also the General Baptist chapel and rooms where Sarah and Benjamin rented from the Towells, to make way for boys' boarding houses.

The Parish Church in its prominent position overlooking open fields (but as yet with no lower churchyard) to the south would be instantly recognisable even though not yet extended and refurbished by Chancellor Wales. If the Ogdens ever ventured inside they would have found box pews and galleries and no stained glass in any of its windows¹⁶. Viewed from the south its run down appearance would not be so noticeable¹⁷. Approaching the town from this direction by way of Church Lane (London Road) the narrowness of the highway was immediately apparent; necessitating refuges cut into the churchyard wall¹⁸ for protection of those on foot from speeding carts and carriages. Opposite, the former George & Dragon and Chequers Inns along with the odiferous Wash Pond, have been victims of road widening, sanitation or the expanded School.

This then was the Ogden's Uppingham. The older part of the town built in a warm brown ironstone lining both sides of the long High Street with homes of prosperous farmers and shopkeepers, structures mostly dating from the 18th century with a scatter of earlier buildings left over from Tudor times and later. But in High Street East the commercial heart of the town there were late 18th and early 19th shops fronts, sometimes replacements. The dominant impression of Uppingham would be Georgian and keeping up with the times. On the evidence, it was a prosperous community offering good business opportunities.

OFFICE, CHAPEL and HOME

The Origins of Banking at Uppingham

From the time banking first arrived in Uppingham it and the wine trade became closely linked. The bank offices were located at the Market Place in the building called The Duke of Wellington or sometimes The Liquor Warehouse and now The Vaults (No 4 Market Place) owned by James Hill, who at the start of the 19th century was involved in both businesses.

From 1786, perhaps earlier, James Hill built a prosperous wines & spirits business acquiring several properties including today's Post Office, The Vaults, the Swan Inn and its yard (Nos. 2, 4 and 5 Market Place), the Unicorn Inn (11 High St East) and others. He became a partner in the earliest banks to open at Uppingham with the probability their offices were at The Vaults. The first founded in 1792 was a local consortium that did not last. Then in 1803 from Stamford a branch of White, Beckwith, Edwards, & Compton with Hill their local director for Uppingham. This failed in 1814, followed by a lull until soon after 1818 Benjamin Ogden's first employers Clarke & Phillips of Leicester opened a branch at Uppingham. Their office too was at The Vaults,

¹⁵ III 8 (Market Place painting), III 8 (drwg of market area).

¹⁶ Painting of the church interior c1840. III 10.

¹⁷ III II (drwg PCC), III 12 (RCM drwg of church).

¹⁸ Photograph. III 13.

Hill died in 1811. Hill's estate descended to his daughter Mary, effectively to her husband William. Wyld a London wine merchant. Wyld kept the property, either selling the wines & spirits business or appointing a local manager to run it. Shortly thereafter Wyld's business failed and Hill's former properties were sold with Leonard Bell acquiring the Post Office and The Vaults. By that time he and his partner Healey at The Swan had taken over Hill's wines & spirits business.

Leonard Bell is first mentioned in Uppingham ~ in 1811 the year of Hill's death when he bought the house once occupied by John Raworth who had been married to the sister of John Morris malster of North Luffenham. At the start of the century Morris was in partnership with the Market Place grocer Thomas Blyth (predecessor of Thomas Bryary selling wines and spirits from either his shop or The Vaults with a warehouse in the adjacent Swan Yard. In 1815 he sold the warehouse and presumably the business to Leonard Bell who had been in occupation at The Vaults, then called The Liquor Warehouse for some time before¹⁹. Bell acquired The Vaults itself in October 1818 from the creditors of Hill's bankrupt son-in-law William Wyld. At auction the premises were described 'that tenement or building, part of which is now used as a Warehouse and the other part as an Accompting House or Banking Office, together with the vaults and cellars under, and the rooms and attics over the said warehouse and Banking Office'.

Bell and Morris therefore had long known each other. The Diary shows their association continued at least up to July 1846. Could Morris have been the Bank's 'man' at Oakham the same as Bell was at Uppingham?

The Leicester Bank

It was Benjamin's employment that brought him to Uppingham, first as a bank clerk working out of Leicester and then as the resident manager of the Uppingham branch of the Stamford, Spalding & Boston Banking Co. Pigot's 1835 Directory of Rutlandshire lists Clarke and Phillips, otherwise the Leicester Bank, having a branch in the Market Place, Uppingham with Leonard Bell their agent. Whether Bell was also a director of this bank is not known.

The role of Benjamin Ogden living in Leicester and working from the bank's Leicester office was to supervise the Uppingham branch, as also those at Oakham and Melton, visiting these and other nearby towns certain days each week. His journeys to Uppingham were dictated by the weekly market then held on Wednesdays and the Lent Fair Week held annually in March. Attendance at Oakham and Melton was similarly dictated by their markets and fairs.

Whether the Uppingham agency was open every day of the week and the possibility of there being a locally resident clerk to deal with business when Ogden was not present, is unclear. The 1841 Census records Robert Michelson a bank clerk lodging with William Ingram at 12 High Street East, but he is thought to have been with the Eaton & Cayley Banking Co office located across the High Street in Crown Passage²⁰. Uppingham was a good place to start ones career; both Michelson and Ogden became directors of their respective banks.

In view of Ogden's duties it is not surprising that a number of Uppingham residents are recorded by the diarist calling at their Leicester home, particularly when those customers found themselves in Leicester on business or for pleasure.

¹⁹ Deeds of Uppingham Post Office. Private Collection.

²⁰ Because White's 1846 Directory & Gazetteer gives the bank's name as The Eaton, Cayley & Michelson Banking Co.

The Stamford & Spalding Banking Co.

An 1839 bill head of George Daniell bookseller & printer at 6 High Street East (now the LOROS Book Shop) shows he had the local branch office of the Stamford & Spalding Banking Co. The bank is marked there also on the 1839 map of Uppingham²¹. White's 1846 Directory places the bank office in the Market Place. The presumption is that with the failure of Clarke, Mitchell, Phillips & Smith and the Stamford bank's consequential decision to open a full time branch at Uppingham with Benjamin Ogden its manager, they moved from 6 HSE to take over the former bank's premises at the Vaults. Here the bank continued throughout Ogden's time up to his departure for Grantham in 1848 (where also it opened its new branch by taking over the premises of its failed predecessor bank).

The Diary indicates Mr Orlando Edmonds was the bank's director resident at Stamford with responsibility for the Uppingham branch who visited on business perhaps once a month, usually staying with the Ogdens. It suggests that besides being a wine & spirits merchant and the bank's landlord, Leonard Bell and latterly his son Samuel must also have been bank directors. Their local contacts and knowledge of people and their circumstances would be invaluable, while it allowed for immediate decision making should the need arise.

Shortly after the Ogdens' departure the bank moved to new premises at 14 High Street West (still today the address of its successor Barclays Bank) where it is listed in the 1851 Census with William Armstrong the manager. Sarah's diary indicates the bank's growing business necessitated employment of another clerk so the likelihood is that it grew too big for the premises at The Vaults. Significantly as early as November 1845 there first appears mention that the Bank was considering building its own premises.

The Ogdens' Home

In her diary Sarah wrote that they rented accommodation from Mrs Towell. It was large enough to accommodate the numerous visitors dining and staying for often quite lengthy periods, with a breakfast room, a situation for a piano and to have the small garden.

In 1837²² George Towell was innkeeper at The Swan Inn (5 & 6 Market Place). In addition he was renting four fields totalling 29a 2r 39p from other landowners. Two years later he gave up the inn and in the 1841 census gave his occupation as grazier. By then he had moved with his family to the west end of the town. Here on the south side of High St West he, or his wife rented property belonging to Richard Satchell plumber & glazier where today stands Uppingham School's Lorne Boys' Boarding House built-in 1856.

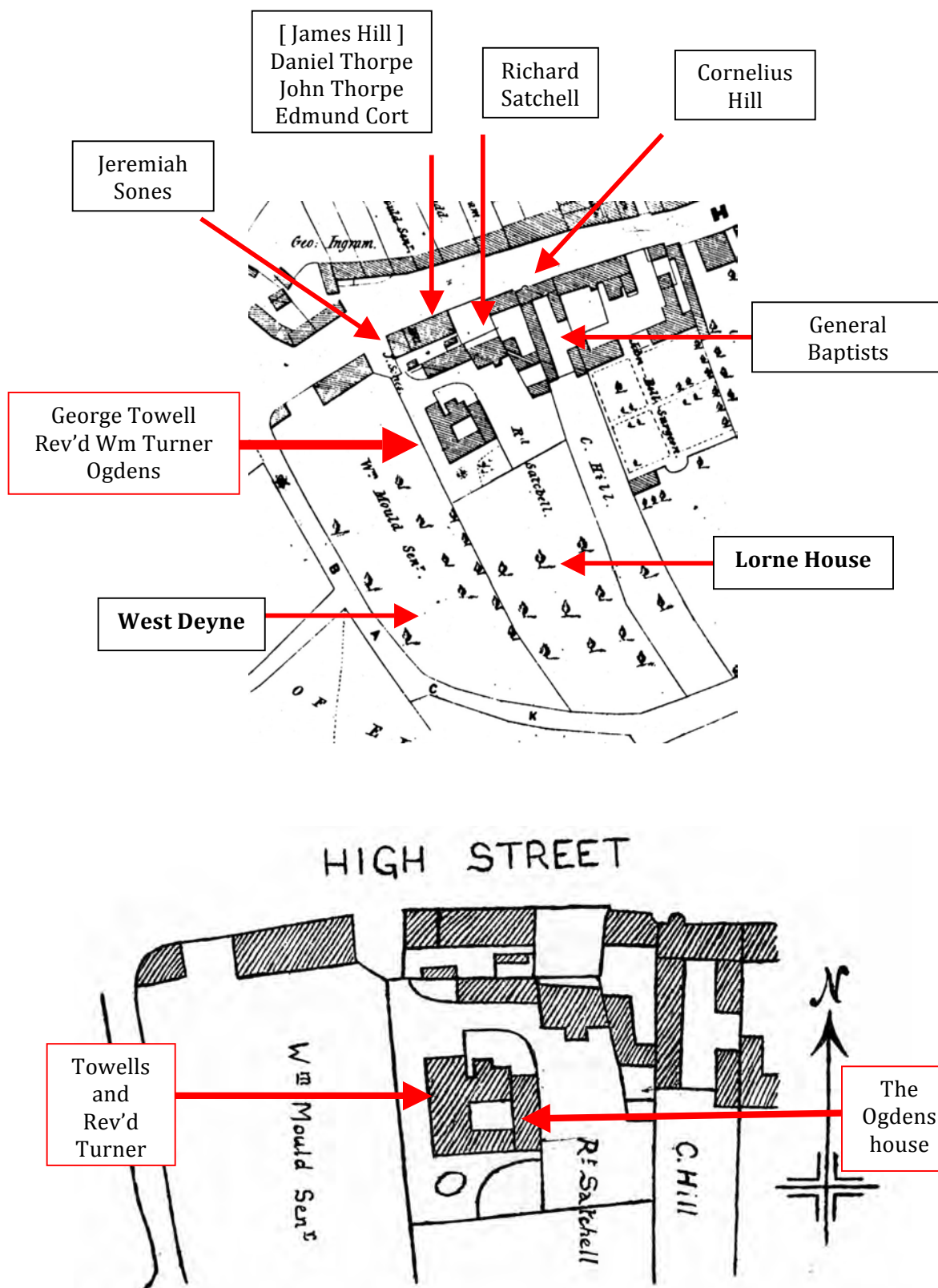
Satchell's property lay behind several small cottages that fronted the High Street. Within a plot extending to Spring Back Way there was in the north east corner a substantial residence and to the west placed centrally a larger building of at least two stories built around a courtyard on the site of the future boarding house. A history of Lorne House²³ concludes this building was itself divided into two dwellings, the east side forming one rectangular house and the rest enclosing the courtyard's other three sides, constituting a larger western house.

²¹ A E Traylen *Uppingham in Rutland* Spiegl Press 1982 p84 and ROLLR acc ref DG 37/150.

²² Uppingham Rate Book. ROLLR acc ref DE 1784/65.

²³ Jonathan & Michael Lewis *Lorne House 1856-1956 A Short History*, Uppingham School Archive.

1839 Map of Uppingham



A possible location for the Ogdens' residence

It appears Towell rented the whole building from Satchell and sub-let portions. From the order of the census entries one might assume the Ogdens occupied the eastern side of the quadrangle. Besides their landlords they had Rev'd William Turner, Usher at the Grammar

School for a neighbour renting another part of the Towell's residence, yet he is mentioned only once in the Diary. The western side of the quadrangle still exists incorporated into Lorne House, whereas the eastern side where it is thought the Ogdens lived, has been demolished to make way for the boarding house building.

Located a few doors to the east was the house of Cornelius Hill retired wool stapler in whose barn the Baptists had met since they first came to Uppingham in 1829. The 1851 Religious Census suggests they, now described as General Baptists, continued there throughout the 1840s. Worshipping at the Strict Baptist Bethesda Chapel the Ogdens had to pass it whenever they walked to and from their chapel in Orange Lane.

The [Bethesda] Chapel

Though never named or given an address in the Diary, its association with Gamble and then Wade identifies it as the Bethesda Chapel in Orange Lane. Today the address is 8 Orange Street. No 10 next door originally two dwellings was built by Gamble as a pair to accommodate the Chapel's minister and the caretaker or keeper.

On 26 March 1829 the Stamford Mercury reported the opening of a Calvinistic Chapel 'a commodious place of worship' at Uppingham²⁴. This was a Particular Baptist Congregation, their Meeting House a barn on the property of Cornelius Hill in High Street West located between today's Uppingham School's School and Lorne Boys' Boarding Houses. Over time it became less strict and in 1851 it described itself as General Baptist so that when the Ogdens arrived in Uppingham in July 1843 there was lacking a meeting house suited to their Strict Baptist faith. Other Uppingham Baptists too must have deplored the dilution of strict Calvinistic principles because in March 1845 Thomas Gamble a saddler, John Wade a cooper and William Beardsworth a plumber & glazier registered a Strict Baptist meeting house in property belonging to Gamble that in due course became the Bethesda Chapel.

Some records credit the Chapel's foundation to a Baptist from Lincolnshire that Professor Rogers²⁵ identifies as William Bellamy a baker & confectioner. The source seems suspect. Bellamy was not one of those applying to register, his name does not appear in any of the property rolls and most importantly, Sarah does not mention him in her Diary. These notes assume the course of events was that a number of the Uppingham Baptist Congregation separated themselves and under the leadership of Gamble and Wade began to meet in their respective homes, eventually forming a meeting house of their own. One wonders if Gamble was holding prayer meetings of like-minded Strict Baptists on his premises from 1839 the year when he acquired his saddlers shop in the High Street.

The Ogdens moved to Uppingham in July 1843. The Diary describes this little group of people gathering at the home of either Gamble or Wade for prayer and spiritual comfort and from there developing into a congregation holding services in what Sarah calls a Chapel though described as a Meeting House in the 1851 Religious Census.

The Chapel was built on ground given by Thomas Gamble, a saddler whose premises at Nos 1 & 3 High Street East extended at the rear to Orange Lane including Nos 8 (Chapel), 10 (keeper's & minister's houses). Appearances and the court roll indicate that while he built the two dwellings at some time between 1845 and 1852, the chapel building itself was converted from an already existing barn or stable that belonged to the saddlers shop. The chapel was said to be small - yet according to the religious census return of 1851 it held 120 seats - with

²⁴ Pauline Collett *Rutland in Dissent* 2011, pp 163-4; A R Traylen *Uppingham in Rutland*, Spiegl Press 1982, p 16.

²⁵ Alan Rogers *Uppingham in 1851* ULHSG 2001, pp 47-8.

a gallery over the entrance and along one side. The pews were very upright and tightly spaced. All the seats were free. The large baptismal tank was set in the floor in the front of the lectern. In 1852 the property came into the ownership of John Wade who lived in North Street West in the vicinity of Wade's Terrace.

Even after moving to Uppingham in July 1843 the Ogdens appear still to have considered themselves members of their Church in Leicester, returning at intervals usually weekends to attend services and enjoy the Minister's sermons. They must have been aware of Strict Baptists prayer meetings taking place in Uppingham but nearly six months passed before the first mention in the Diary for 31 December 1843 'we met with the little flock' but in whose house is not disclosed. Their attendance becomes more frequent the following year by which time Sarah invariably refers to the 'Chapel'. Although registration was still a year away, by now Gamble's barn could have been in regular use as a chapel. The next Diary entry is on Sunday 31 March 1844 when Sarah observes 'Mr Gamble engaged in prayer, much surprised, may we be enabled to deserve the true spirit of prayer'. Sarah is too discrete to say what surprised her, but the association of the word true with the word prayer the second time she uses it, may indicate her opinion of Mr Gamble's eloquence. In the absence of a minister, were extempore prayers and public confession perhaps the norm? Chapel is mentioned again in April (Easter), in May and more frequently thereafter, but not for some time to come as often or as enthusiastically as services at the family Church in Leicester. Surprisingly, Sarah does not mention the registration of the Chapel as a place of worship in March 1845. By 1849 the year after the Ogdens departure, John Wade seems to have become the chief member of the chapel, for a travelling pastor reported in that year – 'I travelled to Uppingham and in the house of dear John Wade, I found a comfortable abode. Never shall I forget that visit to the residence of this devoted man of God. The next day I preached three times in his chapel.'

The first pastor was David Lodge from Banbury²⁶ whose ministry started in 1852 and served until 1856. But in the 1851 Census the 50 year old William Hardwick living at Tods Piece with his wife and two children was designated the Minister and also signed the Religious Census return the same year. He had three services on that Sunday, reporting 80 persons attended in the morning, 20 in the afternoon and 120 in the evening. Numbers had grown.

The Ogdens attended the Bethesda Chapel, ignoring the General Baptist meeting house just two doors from their home, but the impression gained from the diary is that Sarah in particular never felt at ease there. Hence the Diary's frequent references to the joy of attending their previous Leicester chapel on their frequent visits to the city and the inspirational sermons preached by its minister. Uppingham lacked a resident minister until Rev'd Lodge arrived some years after the Ogdens departure and they had to make do with infrequently visiting ministers. Otherwise duties were shared between Gamble and Wade with obvious distress when these two fell out or withdrew in a huff as happened regularly. Social difference *too* seems to have been a factor. The few fellow Bethesda worshippers named in the Diary were craftsmen or tradesmen; the only exceptions being a Mr Falkner, Mr & Mrs George Hart from Preston and the Godfreys from Glaston. The Ogdens were definitely professional class. Perhaps this is why most of those who Sarah visited socially and entertained at home were Congregationalists whose Ebenezer Chapel attracted the wealthier more influential townsfolk, shopkeepers and farmers. But one must also remember these were the same people from whom much of the bank's business came.

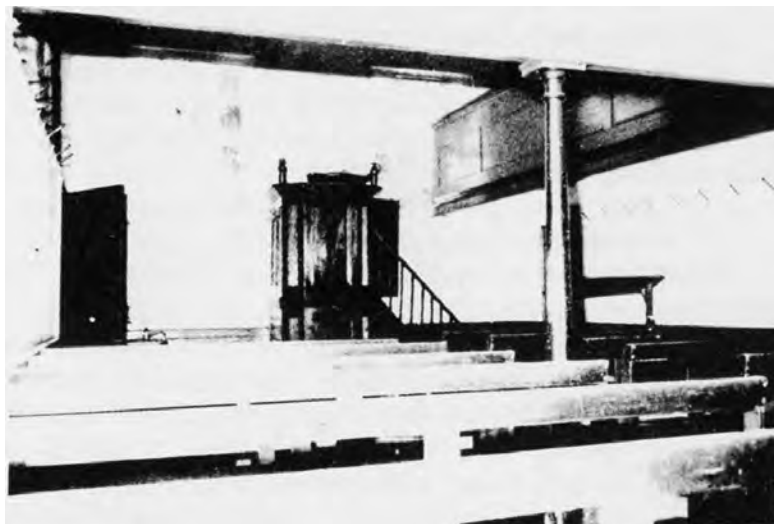
²⁶ Ralph F Chambers, *The Strict Baptist Chapels of England, Vol 4 The Industrial Midlands*, Fauconberg Press, London 1963.



The Chapel circa 1900 (Chambers)



Chapel Wall Plaque

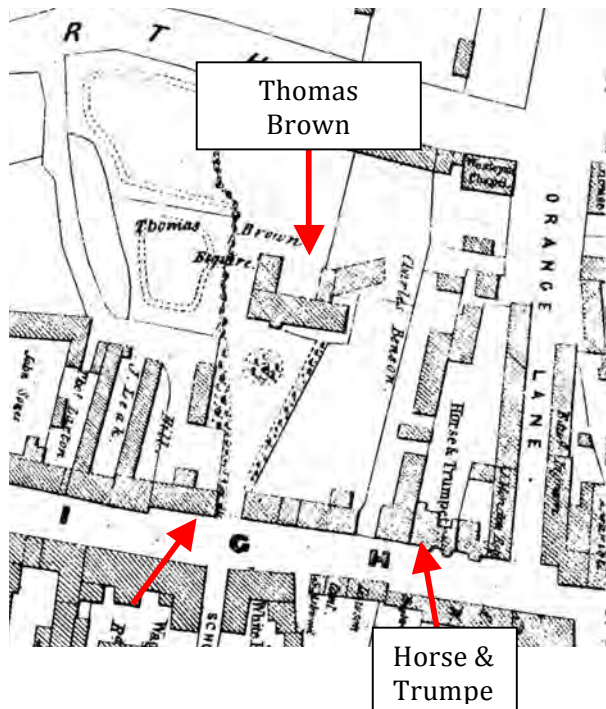


Chapel Interior 1970s

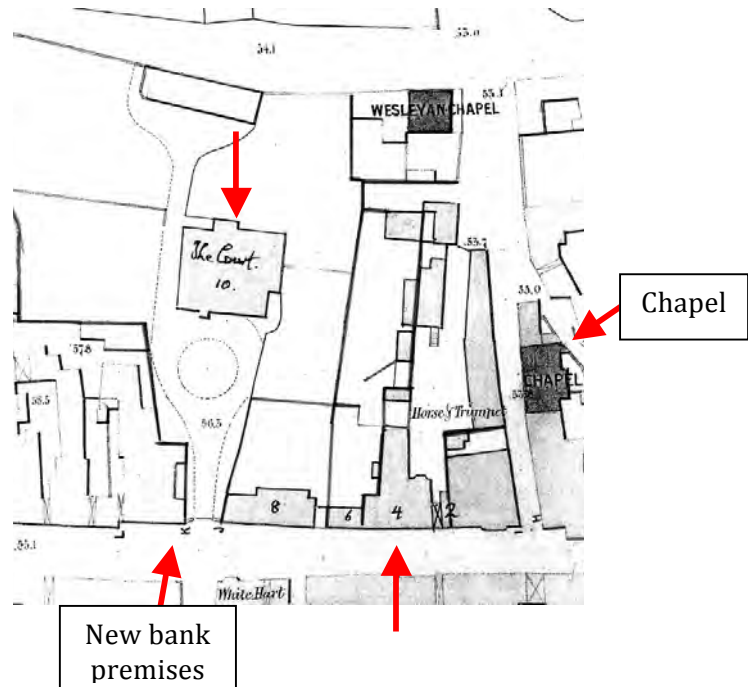
(d) Daniel Slater's plans had been approved 14 months earlier - the Diary entries in March 1846. John Gregory (1851 Census) was a carpenter & builder, a 79 year old widower living on his own in Reeves Yard. At 75 in 1847 he seems a bit old for the job! Could he have been the builder of the bank, perhaps working under Slater's supervision & direction?

Thomas Brown solicitor lived and carried out his business at The Court, today's Thring Centre at 10 High St East. His influence and importance in the town was established and growing. Ownership of the land that formed the entrance from the High Street to No 10 went with that property and could have embraced title to No 12 also which has the appearance of having been built on or encroached into that driveway. In any case his agreement would be needed in connection with access for builders and building works.

It is suggested the Diary entry for 26 May 1847 records the decision to start building and locates the site where the new bank premises, now Barclays, was to be built. The significance of the reference to London however is not understood .



1839 Map



1858 Map



Stamford, Spalding & Boston Bank
branch pre-1871

FRIENDS, ACQUAINTANCES and SERVANTS

In 1837 the Uppingham Poor Law Union prepared a rating list²⁷ of all properties in the town followed two years later by a map of the town itself²⁸. From these, with the help of the censuses of 1841 & 1851 and Commercial Directories, the identities, businesses and residences of many of those mentioned in the Diary are identified. Date references are restricted to the period of residence in Uppingham unless there are special reasons for going outside these limits

Sarah Adcock (25 Jan 1845)

In White's 1846 Directory she is listed as a milliner in the High Street. The 1841 Census is more informative. Sarah aged 27 is described as a straw bonnet maker and milliner, with two younger sisters Mary (c20) and Charlotte (c15) located at about 32/34 High St East or perhaps behind in Southwell's Yard in property belonging to Joseph, later John Freeston. Despite her trouble, or perhaps because of them, she appears again in the 1851 Census a 31 year old spinster living and working at the same place with another younger sister Elizabeth aged 22 staying from London.

Ashwood's (1 Jan 1845; 18 Mar 1848)

Samuel Ashwood snr was innkeeper and owner of the White Hart at 15 High Street West; and described in the 1846 White's Directory as also a farmer & grazier. He bankrupted himself buying too much land and property including the cottages and farmhouse in School Lane to extend the inn yard to its later full size. He died soon after this entry in March 1845 aged 55. His wife Jemima nee Partridge came from Ayston. He was succeeded by his son also Samuel Ashwood.

Mr Barney (12 & 21 Apr 1848)

The new bank manager replacement for Benjamin Ogden. He did not last long. Slaters 1850 Directory gives William Armstrong as the manager and the bank premises in High St [West].

Miss Barney (20, 21 & 23 May 1848)

Perhaps the new bank manager's daughter

William Beardsworth

Plumber, glazier and painter living in the Beast Market at No 1 South View. William and his wife Salome were born in Uppingham. He was 38 years old when the Ogdens moved to Uppingham. As one of the three signatories applying in 1845 to licence the Bethesda Chapel as a place of non-conformist worship it should be expected he would have played a significant part in its affairs, yet he is nowhere mentioned in Sarah's Diary.

Beaumont (13 Oct 1845)

Beaumont Chase. The shoot is likely to have been over land at King's Lodge farm owned by their friend W. Pickering.

The Bell family - Doctors

Two families called Bell lived in Uppingham at this time. The longer established of them were doctors and the other family wine merchants.

²⁷ ROLLR DE 1784/65

²⁸ ROLLR 37/150

Doctor John Bell MRCS London GP inherited the practice from his father James Bell, doctor and explorer. James Bell was one of the most prominent Uppingham Congregationalists in the early part of the 19th century and for 40 years a Deacon of the Meeting House. He is reported alive in 1845 and deceased in 1850.

His son John Bell lived nearby the Ogdens on the south side of High Street West in a house later demolished to make way for the classrooms built to the west of the Victoria Tower. School House was built in its grounds. In 1843 he was 46 and his wife Catherine born at Uttoxeter in Staffordshire was 39. There were five sons - Edward, Henry, Thomas, William and Theodore - all of whom went to Uppingham School and a daughter Mary. Like his father, John Bell and family were Congregationalists. In the 1846 Directory he is listed also as the local agent for the Crown Life Assurance Co.

John Bell was not the Ogdens doctor and Sarah does not refer him anywhere in the Diary. But it was inevitable they knew of each other and must have met. The Ogdens may have heard that in 1839 he and his brother had sold Thomas Gamble two-thirds of the property on which the Chapel and adjacent minister's house were built.

The Bell family, Wine and Spirits Merchants and Bankers (1 Sept 1842, 24 Jun 1843, 11 & 14 May 1844, 17 Jun 1845, 16 Jan 1846)

Entries such as these illustrate the difficulty of deciding about which Bell family Sarah is writing. In the absence of any mention of the doctors and because the wine merchants were the bank's landlords, it is taken that she is writing about Leonard Bell and his family.

Leonard Bell was not a native of Uppingham. Most likely he came from Lincolnshire and very probably Stamford. Born on 23 November 1766, he married Jane daughter of Rev'd David Walker of Deeping St James. Between 1794 and 1810 they had ten children only three of whom survived their parents. All were baptised at St James' Church, Stamford and against one Edward Garford baptised in June 1799 it was noted in the register that his father Leonard was resident in Stamford. What Bell's occupation was at the time and whether he was connected with the bank or any of its directors has not been discovered.

From 1786 James Hill built a prosperous business in wines & spirits at Uppingham, acquiring a deal of property including today's Post Office, The Vaults, the Swan Inn and its yard (Nos 2, 4 and 5 Market Place), the Unicorn Inn (11 High St East) and others. He was a partner also in the two earliest banks to open at Uppingham. The wines and spirits business was located at The Vaults and the probability is that the bank offices were there too.

Hill died in 1811 and his estate descended to his daughter Mary, effectively to her husband William Wyld of London wine merchant. It is assumed Wyld kept the property, either selling the wines & spirits business or likely appointing a local manager to run it. In all probability it was Leonard Bell. Shortly thereafter Wyld's business failed and Hill's former properties were sold by his creditors with Leonard Bell acquiring the Post Office and The Vaults. By that time he and his partner Healey at The Swan had taken over the wines & spirits business.

Leonard Bell is first mentioned in Uppingham in 1811 coincidentally the year of Hill's death when he bought the house once occupied by John Raworth who had been married to the sister of John Morris (qv) malster of North Luffenham. At the start of the century Morris was in partnership with the Market Place grocer Thomas Blyth (predecessor of Thomas Bryan (qv)) selling wines and spirits from either his shop or The Vaults with a warehouse in the adjacent Swan Yard. In 1815 he sold the warehouse and presumably the business to Leonard Bell who by this time was in occupation at The Vaults, then called The Liquor Warehouse²⁹.

Bell acquired The Vaults itself in October 1818. At auction the premises were described- , that tenement or building, part of which is now used as a Warehouse and the other part as an Accompting House or Banking Office, together with the vaults and cellars under, and the

²⁹ Deeds of Uppingham Post Office. Private Collection.

rooms and attics over the said warehouse and Banking Office.

Clearly Bell and Morris had known each other both professionally and socially for some years. The Diary confirms their continued business dealings in the wines & spirits business located at The Vaults. Banking too continued to be based there. Benjamin Ogden's first employers Clarke & Phillips of Leicester opened at Uppingham in 1818 or shortly after with the bank office at The Vaults. Whether Leonard Bell was a director is not known.

Leonard Bell owned and lived at No 2 Market Place, today's Post Office building, a few steps away from The Vaults where he had his business. In 1841 he was 75 and a widower, his wife Jane having died in 1836. On census night he, his son Samuel and daughter Mary Ann Cox wife of Rev' d Thomas Cox with her six children and 4 female servants were at home.

Some 18 months after the Ogdens departed for Grantham, Leonard Bell died aged 83 on 26 December 1849. He was interred on the 31 st next his wife in a vault at the west end of the Church. Its location, whether within or outside the church, is not recorded. They are commemorated in a fine funerary monument placed on the Church's south wall by their surviving children - David William, Samuel and Mary Ann.

Edward Garford Bell

The fifth child of Leonard and Jane Bell baptised at St James, Stamford on 9 June 1799 where his parents were living before they moved to Uppingham. White's 1846 Directory lists him as a wines & spirits merchant in the Market Place confirmed by court records³⁰. He died in July 1846.

Sarah does not mention him nor whether she attended his funeral.

Samuel Bell (11, May 1844, 31 Dec 1844, 8 Jan 1845, 20 Sep 1845, 22 Oct 1845, 16 Apr 1847) The eighth child of Leonard and Jane baptised at St James, Stamford on 7 July 1805 making him 38 years old when Sarah and Benjamin moved to Uppingham. He was unmarried.

His entry in William White's 1846 Directory reads 'Bell Samuel, gent. Market Place', with no mention of involvement with wine & spirits. As the majority of Sarah's diary references are to 'Mr Bell' it is often unclear whether she is writing about Leonard or Samuel. Without firm evidence it is proposed that Leonard Bell now in his mid-seventies had partly retired handing over the wines & spirits business to his son Edward Garford and much of his banking interests to Samuel who became in effect the Bank's Uppingham director in succession to his father or perhaps his deputy. Hence the title of 'gent' in the Directory with its implication he was living on fees rather than trade. The majority of references therefore are assumed to be to Samuel unless otherwise indicated.

What part, if any, he assumed in the wines & spirits business following his brother's death in 1846 is not indicated. Soon Samuel and his father seem to have decided on its sale. The presumed negotiations discussed over Ogden's dinner table (20 Feb 1847) with Compton the successor owner, suggest so. One might go so far as to say William Compton was brought in to manage the business and ended buying it with money advanced by the Bank.

Samuel did not long remain at Uppingham after his father's death in 1849. When the house (1 Market Place) was sold the following year Samuel's address was Kimcote in Leicestershire. A year later the Census of 1851 records him at Bourne in Lincolnshire described as a fund holder and mortgager, but with no mention of the Stamford, Spalding & Boston Banking Company. His older brother William David Bell solicitor resided at Bourne.

William Bellamy

A grocer, baker & confectioner living at or close to No 12 High Street East who was 42 when the Ogdens arrived at Uppingham.

³⁰ MPUCR Vol F, ff323 and 361.

Some Baptist records³¹ claim it was a member from Lincolnshire, identified by Professor Rogers as Bellamy, who opened a Chapel in 1845 at Uppingham on Strict Baptist lines. But Bellamy's position is the same as for Beardsworth - his name never appears in the Diary. One would expect him to be one of the applicants for the Bishop's licence and he was not. His name does not appear in the Chapel's property transactions and is omitted by Chambers³².

Mr Benson (29 Aug 1843, 7 Oct 1843, 20 & 24 Oct 1844, 16 Apr 1847)

The Ogdens soon became friends of the Bensons. Charles Benson's assistant Edwards became the Ogdens' doctor and this entry appears to have been about a social rather than a professional visit.

Charles Benson, surgeon lived at 8 High Street West (Tudor House 1) and also owned the adjacent property 6 HSW (Tudor House 2) the location of his surgery and the residence of his assistants. There exists a doorway (now blocked off) from the first floor sitting room at No 8 that once gave access to No 6 without the need to go out into the street.

His wife Anne was daughter of John Andrews of Bourne. In 1817 Andrews purchased Nos 6 & 8 from the attorney Charles Churchill; thought to mark the date of Benson's marriage and his move to the Uppingham practice. After Andrew's death the property passed in 1826 to his daughter Anne Benson and her husband Charles. Their daughter was named Julia.

Benson was also surgeon to the Uppingham Poor Law Union. In April 1843 one of his assistants having access to the Workhouse mortuary removed the heart of a dead pauper lying there, concealing it in his pocket and afterwards delivered a lecture on it before the Oddfellows Lodge meeting at one of the town's public houses. The consequential uproar and scandal would still have reverberated when the Ogdens arrived three months later.

On census night 1841 Charles Benson 50 year old surgeon was at home³³ with his 85 year old mother Ann Benson of independent means and the 20 year old Charles Freeman described as a surgeon (perhaps the subsequently notorious assistant ?).

Benson's name does not feature in White's 1846 Directory, only that of his assistants John Edwards and William Walker. From Sarah's Diary it is clear that in 1843 and for some time thereafter Benson was still present and practicing in Uppingham.

Mrs Benson (29 Aug 1843, 4 (actually probably 6) Sep 1843)

Charles Benson's mother whom the 1841 Census records aged 85 living with her son. Later Sarah gives her true age of 92. Was Ann Benson exercising a lady's prerogative to conceal her real age from the inquisitive enumerator?

Less than a month later Sarah records Mrs Benson's sudden death on Friday 6 September. There is no reference to the funeral or whether Sarah attended.

Mr Berrick (4 Aug 1846)

Not identified.

The Broughton family (See 6 July 1842, 17 & 23 & 25 & 26 & 29 Nov 1842, 4 & 7 & 8 & 22 Dec 1842, 7, 22 & 28 Jan 1843, 25 Mar 1843, 10 Jun 1843, 31 Dec 1844, 23 & 28 Jun 1845, (13 Jan 1846 ?), Jun & Jul 1847)

The Broughton family is first encountered in Leicester. They lived in Union Street. There was Mrs Ann Broughton, whose late husband had been a surgeon and, according to the 1841

³¹ Alan Rogers *Uppingham in 1851* ULHSG 2001, pp 47-8 and endnotes 5-7 p 57.

³² R F Chambers *Strict Baptist Chapels* vol 4.

³³ Assumed to be 8 High Street West. The enumerator seems to have overlooked him so that this entry appears out of sequence on the last page. The name of Benson's surgeon assistant William Walker is listed in its correct position; assumed to be next door at 6 High Street West.

census, daughters Emma (c25), Lavinia (c19) and Tirzah (c15). Emma married Benjamin Hopkins, draper, of 24, High Street, Uppingham, on 24th March 1843, as Sarah Ogden reports. Lavinia was with them at the time of the 1851 census.

There was another Broughton family, in Uppingham. In 1841 Mary Broughton aged c45 had a stationers shop close to the Ogdens' friend W G Hart grocer at 13 High St East, probably behind it in Unicorn Yard. Living with her were two daughters Mary (c20) and Fanny (c15) and a son Thomas (c20) working in the shop. In 1851 Thomas by then a 32 year old unmarried bookseller and stationer is running the shop and living in Printers Yard. There is no evidence that any of the Broughtons mentioned in the diary come from this family.

Mr and Mrs Brown (26 May 1847, 7 Jan 1848)

The attorney and his family who lived at The Court (10 High St West) now Uppingham School's Thring Centre. Thomas Brown was head of one of Uppingham's two legal practices and Steward of the Rectory Manor. He was then aged about 50 and his wife Mary Ann nee Warren from Uppingham five years younger. Thomas was a junior of Bentley Warren the previous owner of the legal practice and after his death married one of the two orphan daughters. The other daughter never married. There is an impression she was discouraged because Thomas would then have had her husband inheriting her equal half share of the practice. This way he kept total ownership and control. It all seemed a bit murky.

Five of Brown's sons - Edward and Thomas Bentley (Aug 1842), William Henry (Oct 1843), Frederick Warren (Aug 1846) and Charles James (Oct 1848) - were pupils at the Grammar School across the road from where they lived.

The bank's new premises in High Street West was at the corner of the access drive to The Court, with a possibility the land on which it was built had once formed part of that property. Benjamin Ogden would have been keenly aware Brown was one of the most influential men in Uppingham as well as directly affected by the bank's construction.

Mr Bryan and family (7 July 1845, 16 & 18 June 1846, 30 July 1846, 16 Oct 1846, 25 May 1847, 1 Apr 1848)

Thomas Bryan was a grocer & tea dealer. The 1846 Directory also lists him as a farmer & grazier and in the 1851 Census he describes himself as a grocer & corn merchant. His shop and residence were at 7 & 8 Market Place (the former HSBC and Dom Paddy's) together with the land behind now Mayflower Mews. This was still the grand late 16th or early 17th century town house built by Anthony Falkener with its oriel window, fireplaces, garden, stables, barns and yard exiting on to the Beast Market.

For a long time the property had been two shops. Bryan probably lived above and behind the one and let out the other. Additionally he owned the former Red Hart Inn (33 South View). In 1841 he was 40 years old with a wife Catherine of the same age. Of their nine children, all SIX boys - Thomas & John James (Feb 1840), Robert (Aug 1842), William (Oct 1848), Augustus (Jan 1850) and Edward (Aug 1851) - were educated at the Grammar School.

The Bryans worshipped at the Parish Church. In 1831 he was elected People's Churchwarden and from 1840-50 inclusive was nominated as the Rector's Warden.

Mr Bryan of Lyddington (1 Sept 1845)

This is the T J Bryan of Lyddington who sent 3 sons - James & Hugh (Aug 1843) and John Henry (Aug 1849) - to Uppingham School.

As Thomas Bryan the Uppingham grocer was born in Lyddington, the possibility is he was related, perhaps as a brother, to T J Bryan.

Mr [John] Burbank (22 June 1846, 27 Aug 1846, 9 Sep 1846, Sep 1847, 27 Mar 1848)

The new bank clerk (position approved Diary 19 May 1846). He is not present at Uppingham in the 1851 Census enumeration.

Joseph Chamberlain and family; Mr C.; "Our dear Minister" (3 Aug 1843, 18 Sept 1844, 27 Nov 1845, 23 July 1846, 24 & 25 & 27 Aug 1846) Joseph Chamberlain was minister of the Salem Strict Baptist Chapel, Free School Lane, Leicester, where the Ogdens worshipped, and there are many references to him, usually as Mr C., during the Leicester residence. It seems significant that the Ogdens did not arrange for him to preside at the Wednesday evening chapel meeting at Bethesda given that Bethesda had no resident minister. Also we may note that that he dined with the Harts, not at the Gambles or Wades who are not even mentioned as guests.

Joseph and his wife Jane had six children: one of them, Edward, died, aged 17, on 3 Aug 1843

Sarah Cant (26 Sept 1846)

The 38 year old wife of William Cant agricultural labourer. They lived in one of the yards off the south side of High St West named Spencers in 1841 and Innocents in 1851 after the owner at the time, located behind the butchers shop then standing opposite *Chesterton* (No 18 High St West). The yard was an overcrowded slum and some of its inhabitants caused the School immense concerns for both health and the morals of its boarders.

Castle Hall (Nov 1847)

Castle Hill, the motte & bailey located about a mile northwest of the town on the road to Leicester. It has commanding views over the Eyebrook and into Leicestershire.

John Catlin jnr (18 Mar 1847)

The Diary entry is presumed to be in connection with finding new lodgings for the Ogdens in place of their rooms rented from Mrs Towell at the future Lorne House. No reason is given for a need to move house. It may be the term of their tenancy was up, but could they have renewed?

John Catlin victualler who owned the Horse & Trumpet at 4 High St West died in 1846 leaving the inn to his widow Mary for life and thereafter to his son John jnr who must have been the person who approached Benjamin Ogden with the offer of lodgings.

Selection of an inn as a residence for a Strict Baptist bank manager would be an unusual choice. In 1837 John snr was owner of an second property described as a house & yard that from internal evidence of the Rate Book was located not far from the Inn. For want of better evidence it is suggested this was the Ogden's new lodgings (Diary entry 13 April 1847).

Catlin's offer may have been precipitated by financial necessity. John snr had raised £800 on security of the inn and besides had provided for lavish bequests in his will, which the inn's income could not meet. The Catlins were already in financial straits when John jnr approached Ogden. Two years after the widow Mary's death in 1852 the lender foreclosed. The property was sold and rebuilt as the original Constable boys' boarding house.

Mr Compton (20 Feb 1847, 3 Mar 1847, 16 Apr 1847)

William S Compton a 29 year old wine & spirits merchant from Water Newton in Huntingdonshire with a wife named Sarah born at High Wycombe, Bucks. Newly arrived at Uppingham (he is not in the 1846 Directory) the 1851 Census shows him living at the corner of School Lane & High St West. A year earlier Slater's 1850 Directory lists his premises in the Market Place pinpointing the time when he took over the wine & spirits business at the Vaults from Leonard Bell. Compton went on to become the most influential shopkeeper in the town, a Churchwarden of the Parish Church under the Rev'd William Wales, a Trustee of the Congregational Church, owner of several properties including 68 High St East where he and his wife made their home. He played a significant role in the town's typhoid outbreak in

the 1870s. The best account of his career is found in Nigel Richardson's book³⁴.

A dinner between a bank manager, a solicitor and a young, able & ambitious shopkeeper gives the strongest impression of how Ogden conducted his business, in this case financing Compton's start in life. Sarah notes the men sat till near on midnight.

Mr Cookson (20 Feb 1846)

Not identified.

Mary Dams (21 Sept 1846)

Wife of William Dams (Damms in the 1851 Census) living at or close to 1 School Lane. William was employed as ostler at the adjacent White Hart Inn.

Mr Deacon (2 May 1844)

Piano tuner. Not otherwise identified.

Dean's garden (10 July 1845)

Thomas Dean nursery & seedsman and in the 1846 Directory also listed as a farmer & grazier in partnership with Harrison. Dean's shop was in the Market Place, thought to have been at No 5 with his dwelling the house behind it at the top of Swan Yard. There is confirmation from the Preston with Uppingham Court Rolls that his house & shop were in Swan Yard facing Beast Market.

Dean was born at South Ormsby, Lincs. In 1841 he was 30 years old, married with his wife Mary three years older who came from Uppingham.

Dean's nursery garden was on land below South View behind the former Rose & Crown public house. The last nurseryman was the late Gilbert Titchard. The nursery garden is now built on.

Dean (7 Sept 1846)

Presumably Deene Hall & Park and the avenue leading up to the house at the Northamptonshire village of Deene. Did one need Lord Cardigan's permission to picnic on his land, or perhaps the celebrated Commander of the Light Brigade in the Crimean War was away from home. His Lordship's flow of language was said to be even worse than those of the ostlers at Uppingham's Falcon Hotel.

Old Dodson (22 June 1845)

A member of the Bethesda Chapel congregation. Otherwise not known.

Mr Edwards, his mother and his sisters (17 Feb 1844, 2 May 1844, 18 June 1844, 6 Oct 1844, 8 & 16 Nov 1844, 10 & 23 & 26 Jan 1845, 5 Apr 1845, 5 & 6 & 11 & 12 & 20 & 24-28 June 1845, 1 & 5 & 7 & 9-11 & 28 July 1845, 1 Sep 1845, 22 Oct 1845, 22 Jan 1846, 19-21 Feb 1846, 22 May 1846, 4 June 1846, 3 & 12 & 17 & 19 Aug 1846, 1 & 3-5 & 14 & 26 & 28 & 29 Sep 1846, 23 Oct 1846, 28 Nov 1846, 22 Feb 1847, 25 & 28 & 29 Mar 1847, 22 Apr 1847, 28 May 1847, 1st entry & 29 Nov 1847, 10 Jan 1848, 26 Feb 1848)

John Edwards, surgeon, was assistant to Charles Benson whose residence was No 8 High Street West (Tudor House 1) with his surgery next door at No 6 (Tudor House 2). To begin with Edwards would have lived at No 6, moving to No 8 when he took over after Benson's retirement. The Rectory Manor court roll indicates this happened in 1857, but the absence of Benson's name in 1846 suggests Edwards may have taken over earlier.

In 1841 Benson's surgeon assistant was William Walker, so Edwards arrival in Uppingham

³⁴ Dr Nigel Richardson, *Typhoid in Uppingham*, Pickering & Chatto 2008.

was only shortly before the Ogdens. Walker is named together with Edwards in White's 1846 Directory but not in the 1851 Census.

John Edwards was evidently the Ogden's doctor and also a close friend.

Edwards had two older unmarried sisters Ann and Martha who in 1843 were respectively 39 and 38 years old. Of independent means they lived with him and managed his bachelor household. The Mrs Edwards to whom Sarah refers from time to time is presumably John Edwards' mother. In 1851 Edwards married Mary Elizabeth Tomlinson.

Neither Benson, Walker nor Edwards were present at the 1851 Census. Benson had retired, Walker had moved on and Edwards' absence is explained by his honeymoon. His sisters were holding the fort at No 8 High Street West. Who it was in charge of the patients' medical problems is not recorded.

Mr Ellis & Son (17 June 1843, 15 July 1843, 9 & 18 Dec 1847, 11 & 20 & 26 & 27 May 1848)

Taken to be the forerunners of Ellis & Everard, transport and furniture removals of Kettering. W Ellis packed and moved the Ogdens effects to Uppingham and onwards from there to Grantham.

Mr Falkner (24 June 1843, 8 & 27 Sept 1844)

Not identified. Until recently there hung in the Parish Church a watercolour by an Edward Falkner dated 1832 of the church's pre-restoration interior showing the former box pews and gallery. Nothing more is known of him.

Frunch (21 May & 11 June 1846)

Presumably a horse, pony or dog. Had Sarah given up hope of children and taken a pet dog as substitute?

Mr Gamble (31 Mar 1844, 14 Apr 1844, 6 Apr, 1845, 1 Nov 1846, 17 Jan 1847, 28 Feb 1847, 7 Mar 1847, 24 Apr 1847, 2 & 16 & 30 May 1847, 21 May 1848)

Thomas Gamble, saddler & harness maker lived and carried on his business at 1 & 3 High Street East. In 1843 he was 40, married to Elizabeth aged 53 with a 7 year old daughter also Elizabeth. He was born in Uppingham and his wife at Claybrook, Leicestershire. He is mentioned in Pigot's 1829 Directory.

Thomas was a Strict Baptist and one of the three signatories in 1845 for a licence to open a meeting house on his premises at Uppingham.

Garner (17 Jan 1847, 14 & 28 Feb 1847, 14 Mar 1847, 24 Apr 1847, 2 & 16 & 30 May 1847, 24 Oct 1847, 13 May 1848)

Not identified. Here he is mentioned officiating at the Chapel services. Did he come from one of the surrounding villages perhaps? The Misses Garner are also mentioned on 14 Aug 1848.

Mr and Mrs and Miss Godfrey (7 Feb 1847, 26 & 27 Mar 1847, 14 May 1847, 11 Sep 1847, 26 Oct 1847, Nov 1847, 17 & 21 May 1848)

A proportion of the worshippers attending the Chapel would come from surrounding villages, in this case Glaston, where Thomas Godfrey was a farmer.

Mr Goldsmith (Good Friday April 1844, 14 May 1844, 11 Nov 1844, 19 Apr 1845, 14-18 June 1845, 24 Oct 1845, 14 May 1846)

Goldsmith is first mentioned visiting in April (Good Friday) 1844 and again the following month when he was standing in for the absent of Mr Bell - whether Leonard or Samuel is not indicated. Over the next two years the Diary mentions several more visits, with sometimes spending the night at the Ogdens' house. On one occasion (19 April 1845) Sarah dined with

him at Stamford on her way to Grantham by coach. In the last reference in May 1846 Sarah mentions he is leaving (the bank ?) and this is causing her husband some anxiety. The assumption is that Goldsmith was part of the Bank organisation at Stamford and quite senior too. Benjamin's appointment as Director came shortly after Goldsmith's departure. Perhaps the events were connected; an opportunity opening and Benjamin's anxiety arising from his hopes for promotion to the vacancy.

Grammar School Speech Day (20 June 1846)

This was the first Speech Day of the Reverend Henry Holden³⁵ newly appointed the previous January as Master of the Grammar School. Sarah Ogden's brief description is possibly the earliest account of the function, certainly by someone not connected with the School. Bryan Matthews discerns a difference of temperament between Holden and his predecessor Butterson. Could it have found expression in a radically different and outward looking attitude that included inviting Parents of the day pupils and the town's worthies to dine and dance as guests of the Master and School on such an important day? The Ogdens had been at Uppingham for the previous four Speech Days but this is the first mention in Sarah's diary of the event. Certainly, according to the *Lincolnshire Chronicle*³⁶, they 'witnessed the renewal of a pleasing and interesting ceremonial in the recital of speeches by the scholars of this ancient school. After a silence of eighteen years, the walls of the school-house once more resounded with the voices of the youthful candidates for the praise of correct and animated elocution.' Also, according to the same report, in the evening 'the festivities ... were noyt concluded till a late hour.'

Catherine Bryan was the wife of Thomas Bryan corn merchant, grocer & tea dealer living at 6 & 8 Market Place. Of their nine children, all six boys - Thomas & John James (Feb 1840), Robert (Aug 1842), William (Oct 1848), Augustus (Jan 1850) and Edward (Aug 1851) - were educated at Uppingham School. Catherine was 45 or thereabouts at this time.

Henry Harcourt (30 May 1847)

Not identified.

Mr Hart (8 Sept 1844, 20 Aug 1845, 28 Aug 1846, 17 Sep 1846, 17 Feb 1848)

The diary mentions two families with the surname Hart and in each the husband is called George, frequently without making clear which of the two is the subject of the entry. Sarah knew perfectly well so did not need to spell it out, but not so later readers of the Diary. The one family were grocers at 11 & 13 High Street East, today's Age Concern charity shop. Sarah became firm friends with George's wife later Widow Ann Hart and her daughter-in-law also Ann, even though the Harts were staunch supporters of the Congregational Church in Adderley Street where many of their children were baptised by its Minister the Rev'd John Green. Further, George Hart the grocer died in June 1845 but references in the Diary to someone of this name continue.

The name George Hart is mentioned several times also in connection with the Chapel before and after the death of his namesake the grocer (entry 21 Aug 1845 and later). Coincidentally another George Hart was living at this time at Preston. Whether the two men were related is unknown but it is possible. Besides people from Uppingham those attending the Chapel are known to have come from surrounding villages, Belton, Glaston, Bisbrooke, so why not Preston too?

Where the diary entry mentions the Chapel or is later than June 1845 (21 Aug 1845 and 28 Aug 1846 for example), the assumption has to be it relates to George Hart of Preston.

³⁵ B. Matthews *By God's Grace* Whitehall Press, 1984, p.62.

³⁶ 19th June 1846

Mr George Hart, grocer (9 June 1845)

The Hart family provided Uppingham with at least three generations of grocers with their premises at 11 & 13 High St East. The first was George Hart the elder who died in 1790. Married to Sarah Munton they had 8 children of whom the seventh, a son George Hart the younger, was born in 1782. George Hart the son is described as a grocer and tea dealer. He and his wife Ann had 3 children, William Garner (bapt 2 Sept 1809), Sarah (bapt 23 Nov 1810) and Ann (bapt 1 May 1812). George Hart jnr died aged 63 and was buried at Uppingham on 9 June 1845. The family business was taken on by his son William Garner whose wife Ann was a friend of Sarah's being much the same age. Sarah records in her Diary that George Hart died on 4 June 1845 and that his daughter Mrs Orwood the following but does not mention the cause or if the events were connected.

Mrs Ann Hart (15 Apr 1844, 22 April 1844, 18 Sep 1844, 6 June 1845, 10 June 1845, 11 Jan 1847, 28 May 1847)

The Harts were grocers at 11 & 13 High St East.

There are two candidates. One is Mrs Ann Hart wife of George Hart jnr, grocer & tea dealer at 13 High St East who in 1844 would have been 62 years old.

The other is her daughter-in-law also Mrs Ann Hart wife of William Garner Hart eldest son of George jnr & Ann. Born Ann Ash at Stratton in Cornwall, she was married to William Garner Hart grocer at 13 High Street east. In 1841 she was 32, the same age as her husband and recently married with no children. A daughter Anne was born in 1846 and another Mary in 1848. Her older sister Mary Ann was the wife of William Hope the chemist living next door at 15 High St East.

The older Mrs Hart would have been Sarah's mother's generation (presumably also at the tea) whereas Ann Hart the younger was Sarah's age group. The diary gives no indication which Ann Hart was the guest.

Where 'Mrs Hart' is mentioned, without Christian name, there is a further complication in that she could be the wife of Mr George Hart of Preston, and is certainly highly likely to be if mentioned in connection with Chapel, as on 21 Feb 1847

Holt (8 Aug 1846)

Neville Holt near Medbourne on the road to Market Harborough.

Mr and Mrs Hope and family (13 May 1843, 12 & 14 July 1843, 29 Aug 1843, 9 May 1844, 24 & 26 Sep 1844, 26 & 31 Dec 1844, 9 & 26 & 27 Jan 1845, 20 Mar 1845, 6 & 13 & 20 & 23 & 27 June 1845, 7 July 1845, 20 Aug 1845, 15 & 20 Oct 1845, 24 Dec 1845, 15 & 23 Jan 1846, 10 Apr 1846, 4 June 1846, 16 July 1846, 1 & 9 & 17 & 21 & 29 Sep 1846, 10 Nov 1846, 16 Apr 1847, 27 May 1847, 13 June 1849)

William Hope, the first of three generations of Uppingham chemists and druggists, had his shop at 15 High Street East now Small's Outfitters. The shop was at the left (seen from the street) and residence at the right and above both parts.

In 1843 he was 43 or thereabouts and his wife Mary Ann a year younger. Her younger sister also Ann was married to their neighbour William Garner Hart grocer. The Hopes were prominent Congregationalists. There were four children, two girls and two boys the second of whom Thomas Ash who succeeded his father as chemist at Uppingham, was educated at Uppingham School.

The sisters Mary Ann Hope and Ann Hart came from Cornwall and like Sarah, were immigrants to Uppingham which may have been a cause for their closeness. From the numerous diary entries, Mary Ann Hope appears to have been Sarah Ogden's closest friend in Uppingham. C. Hope (24 Dec 1845) should be her sister Charlotte who would have been about 14 years old at this time.

Mr Hopkins (2 May 1844, 26 Sep 1845)

When the Ogdens arrived at Uppingham, William Hopkins and his sons William and Benjamin were amongst the wealthiest of the town's shopkeepers owning one of the largest drapery store in Uppingham. In addition a very large tailoring business was carried out on the premises. At this time William snr was married to his second wife Mary.

William jnr and Benjamin inherited the business before the death of their father in 1847.

Their shop and dwellings were at 24 and 26 High Street West now Uppingham Carpets and Boots the Chemist. Behind in Hopkins Court they owned most of the cottages occupied by their tailors, milliners and dressmaker employees .-

Thimble Row and Bodkin Square

All the tailors do live there.

William and Benjamin and their families were staunch Congregationalists, the brothers becoming trustees of the new school in 1851.

In 1843 William jnr tailor & draper was 29 years old and his wife Sylvia Elizabeth who had been born in Marylebone, London was 27. There were six children - Selina H b.1839 and five boys William b.1840, Henry Sydney b.1842, Eliza Ambrose b.1845, Sylvia S b.1847 and John L b.1849. Henry Sydney (Feb 1852) and William (Oct 1852) attended the Grammar School.

Also in 1843 the second brother Benjamin a tailor, was 23 and his wife Emma from Leicester two years older. There is record of only one child, a daughter Fanny, born in about 1850.

The Mr Hopkins referred to in the Diary is probably Benjamin, who was Ogden's rival for the Treasurership of the Oakham Small Debts Court in 1845³⁷.

Mr Ingram (2 June 1844, 3 Aug 1844)

Without a Christian name it is impossible to say which of the several Ingrams then present in Uppingham this one was. A possibility is William Ingram miller and Mary his wife who in 1841 lived at 12 High Street East with their 20 year old bank clerk lodger Robert Michelson.

Mr Johnson (12 May 1844) Not identified.**Kemps** (11 Mar 1845)

The diary entry probably refers to the widowed Mrs Elizabeth Kemp and her daughters.

Until he died on 6 July 1842 at the age of 63 Edward Kemp snr owned and occupied a drapers shop at 16 High St East (The Lake Isle) with his wife Elizabeth (50) and children Edward (25), Elizabeth (20), John (15), Sophia (15) and Charles (10). Their ages in brackets are from the 1841 Census. After his death his widow assisted by their eldest son Edward jnr continued to run the shop until 1850. The sons Edward and Charles were educated at the Grammar School.

It is calculated Edward jnr married later this (1845) year (but it needs confirming) so that the marriage they discussed was most likely his.

Edward snr was an active member of the Congregational Church for 33 years and a deacon for 10 of them. His widow and family were strong Congregationalists also. Their fine chest tomb can still be seen on the north side of the church behind The Vaults.

John Quincy Law and family (17-18 Nov 1842, 23 May 1843, 17 & 24 June 1843, 9 July 1843, 9 & 16 & 25 May 1844, 7 Sep 1844, 28 Nov 1844, 9 & 31 Dec 1844, 7 & 9 Jan 1845, 20 Feb 1845, 11 & 20-21 & 24-25 & 30 Mar 1845, 2 & 28 June 1845, 23 May 1846, 18 Jan 1847, 2 Apr 1847)

Ironmonger of 4 High Street East and 9 Market Place, Uppingham. He purchased the property together with 10 HSE and buildings behind in Fishers (now Printers) Yard in March

³⁷ Lincolnshire Chronicle 24.10.1845

1836 for £720 from the trustees of James Thomson Fisher deceased ironmonger. In 1841 Law then 43 was resident at No 4 together with his wife Frances aged 35 and family. Later he purchased cottages lying adjacent to Tod's Piece.

Even before Benjamin & Sarah Ogden moved to Uppingham, John & Frances Law of Uppingham were known to Sarah's parents socially and possibly already as business associates.

In 1844, probably, Law and his wife Frances moved to Leicester, said to be on account of his poor health, leaving the shop at Uppingham in the charge of their son Thomas (aged 23 in 1851) looked after by his sister Frances (aged 22 on the same date), both unmarried.

At Leicester John Law is described as an ironfounder. From the diary entries he had business dealings and after September 1844 went into partnership with Sarah Ogden's Cort parent.

John Law died in 1864. His son Thomas disclaimed the inheritance of the shop on the terms in his father's will which so the property passed to the widow Frances for her lifetime with Thomas continuing to run the Uppingham ironmongers shop for her.

There remains a mystery about the identity of 'A. Law' with whom Sarah started a Florentine painting on 1 Apr 1845.

Miss Linnington (6 June 1845)

William Ash of Stratton, Cornwall the father of Mary Ann Hope and Ann Hart, married an Ann Linnington. Miss Linnington is a potential cousin or aunt of these two ladies.

Loss amongst the sheep (11 June 1846)

Outbreaks of disease amongst livestock impacting on the prosperity of farmers would be closely monitored by the bank. This must have been unusually severe to find its way into the Diary.

On the other hand increased sales of medicines to treat the animals would have benefited their friends the Hopes whose sales were as much for animals as with humans.

Love Lane (4 June 1845 and 27 July 1846)

The lane turning off London Road between Redgate and Knoll House leading to Breach Farm. Frequented by courting couples from the town - hence its name.

Manton (21 May 1848)

By 1851 a 27 year old Charles Manton, white smith was living with his wife Emmeline at No 3 Leamington Terrace. Slaters 1850 Directory also has him living there replacing Henry Hodgkinson the white smith who appeared in the 1846 Directory. For lack of a Christian name one cannot be certain, but it is pointed out that Manton the whitesmith had very much the same work and trade background as Gamble (saddler), Beardsworth (plumber & glazier), Wade (cooper) and others who worshipped at Bethesda.

Thomas Moore (17 Feb 1848) Not known.

John Morris and family (2 & 19 Feb 1845, 4 Sep 1845, 20 July 1846)

Morris is identified as John Morris malster of North Luffenham with business interests in the liquor trade in Uppingham. In 1797 his sister Susanna married John Raworth an Uppingham doctor. At the start of the century Morris was in partnership with the grocer Thomas Blyth, a predecessor of Thomas Bryan, selling wines and spirits from either The Vaults³⁸ or more likely from a warehouse in the adjacent Swan Yard. In 1815 he sold the warehouse and presumably the business to Leonard Bell who acquired The Vaults itself in October 1818

³⁸ Deeds for Uppingham Post Office indicate that James Hill liquor merchant owned The Vaults at this time.

from Hill's bankrupt son-in-law William Wyld. The deeds show Bell was in occupation at The Vaults, then called The Liquor Warehouse for some time prior to 1815.

It clear from the Diary that Morris, or his family, maintained their business interests in Uppingham and contacts with the bank (4 Sept 1845).

In the 1820s MPU Court Rolls record John Morris, together with Thomas Morris and William Morris trustees surrendering Thomas Blyth's grocers shop at 6 or 8 Market Place to Thomas Bryan grocer. In October 1842 the same source mentions John Morris as *executor/trustee* surrendering 28 High St East & 2 Queen Street.

John Morris Esq is listed in the 1837 Rate Book as owner of two premises, a house & shop and a house with barn, stable, yard and garden. Also of three further properties each described as a house & premises. All were tenanted and none has been identified. On the south side of Uppingham he had a field called Brand Close. His name does not appear in the 1846 Directory. Between 1828 and 1832 three children of John & Elizabeth Morris were baptised at the Congregational Church.

At this time Stamford was the centre of the malting trade and Morris is described as a malster. A picture emerges of John Morris in the role of supplier of liquors, wines and spirits to a range of outlets in Uppingham - Blyth grocer Market Place, The Swan, The Unicorn, Hill and then Bell at The Vaults - and perhaps elsewhere. Further could there be a family connection with the Rutland or Morris' Brewery built at Oakham in 1842 by two brothers W C and C K Morris. Might he have been the Bank's Director for Oakham in the same way that Bell seems to have acted for them at Uppingham ?

Sarah's diary gives no hint, but one can readily appreciate her references to her husband's meetings with Mr Morris.

Miss Mould (20 July 1846)

With the several Mould families then living in Uppingham, identification is at best uncertain. The most likely person is Eliza Mould, daughter of William Mould snr farmer & malster, brother of William Mould jnr and sister of Elizabeth Jeyes a schoolmaster's widow.

In 1851 Eliza was 45 years old and described as a fundholder. The same year she was admitted to 'Peppers' (48 & 50 High St West) as devisee of her father but was at the time living with her widowed sister Elizabeth at 32 High St West (the One Stop Shop).

Mr Oliver (22 Oct 1845, 14 Feb 1846, 4 Sep 1846, 16 Jan 1847, 26 Feb 1848, 13 May 1848)
Charles Wellington Oliver, printer & stationer. The 1846 Directory describes him in addition as bookseller, sub-distributor of stamps and newsagent.

On 7 November 1844, Charles Wellington bachelor & bookseller son of George Oliver clergyman, was married in the Parish Church to Catherine Bryan spinster, daughter of Thomas Bryan of Uppingham, grocer. Oliver acquired the printers & stationers business and premises at 6 High St East and was admitted tenant (Manor of Preston with Uppingham) on 27 October 1846. Sarah was a friend of the bride's mother but underlying the diary entries is just the suggestion that the bank was financing Oliver, most probably on the security of his father-in-law Thomas Bryan.

Oliver did not last long, leasing the business to John Hawthorn in 1854 and selling him the property in 1860. Oliver & his wife moved to Bath. .

Mrs Orwood (5 June 1845)

Sarah has mis-heard her name: she was Sarah Ann Harwood, daughter of George Hart grocer. Sarah records her death on 5 June 1845, the day after that of her father. She died in London, aged 31, leaving her husband and five small children. She was interred in the same grave as her father.³⁹

³⁹ Lincoln, Rutland and Stamford Mercury, 13.6.1845

Painting & Sketching (8 Dec 1845)

This and other diary entries mention Sarah's hobby painting and sketching. Were any to have survived they would make a fascinating addition to the little we know of Uppingham's appearance at this time. Besides the drawings of the church - exteriors at the Museum and Falkener's interior - the only painting from about this period is Sandby's early nineteenth century painting of the Market Place reproduced on the cover of ULHSG's *Uppingham in 1802* that shows both the Vaults and Bryan's shop.

Mr William Pickering (23 Apr 1845, 21 Aug 1845, 22 Oct 1845, 11 & 25 Mar 1848, 17 May 1848, 18 Oct 1848, 23 Dec 1848)

In White's 1846 Directory William Pickering of Beaumont Chase is described as a farmer & grazier. In the 1837 Rate Book, William Pickering is a tenant renting five parcels of land from Sir Gerard Noel Noel Bt totalling 87a 1r 9p. He was also tenant of the same landlord occupying Beaumont Chase House and Park's Lodge. The total (net) rateable value of the six properties was £139. 18s.

Mr Slater (19 Nov 1845, 12 Feb 1846, 16 & 25 Mar 1846)

Slater was born and raised in Preston and in 1846 had not yet moved to Uppingham. A Congregationalist and fervent supporter of Rev'd John Green, he played a major part in raising the money to build the new Ebenezer Chapel in Adderley Street (then Meeting Lane) opened in 1814. Given his professional skills and involvement as the major money raiser he may well have been the designer & architect of the chapel building itself - no other candidate is known. In the 1851 Census he is described as a builder & cabinet maker, appraiser employing 6 men. At that date he was 58, his wife Eleanor was 59 and they were living at 31 High Street East.

The 1845 diary entry may be a first indication that only two years after opening a permanent branch at Uppingham, the Stamford, Spalding & Boston Bank was looking to build its own premises and manager's house there. On 16 & 25 March 1846 the plans were approved, but it seems odd no location or plot is mentioned in any of the Diary entries. Although after March there are no more references to Slater or his drawings, a possible interpretation of Diary entry 26 May 1847 is that his scheme did go forward resulting in the bank's new premises completed a year after the Ogden's departure for Grantham.

Slater has left us an engaging account of Uppingham personalities as he knew them in his youth - say the 1820s & '30s - that is reproduced in ULHG's history of the Congregational Church⁴⁰.

Mrs Smith (11 Jan 1847) Not identified.

Social Round (14 Sept 1846)

Probably Sarah was calling on Miss (Martha) Edwards sister of the doctor living at 10 High St West and William Gilson the attorney who resided only a few doors away at 42 High St West with his wife Charlotte. His mother-in-law Sarah Swann may have been staying, otherwise a Mrs Christiana Swann wife of the blacksmith John Swann lived opposite where now is the School's East Classroom Block.

Mr Southam (20 Feb 1847, 16 Apr 1847)

Thomas William Southam, solicitor and a close neighbour of the Ogdens in High Street West. He was the third party at Benjamin Ogden's dinner and perhaps Compton's guarantor.

⁴⁰ P Lane *The Congregational Church* ULHG 19, April 1991.

Swann, Charles Henry and Elizabeth and family (17 June 1845, 10 July 1845, 31 July 1846) The Reverend Charles Henry Swann was Rector of Stoke Dry. His wife was Elizabeth Ann, née Goldsmith, and in 1845 their children were Emma (5), Eliza (4) and Charles (2). There were three more children by the 1851 census and yet another three thereafter. The 'Miss Swann' mentioned was probably Eliza, a sister of the Rector. Another of his sisters, Charlotte, married William Gilson the Uppingham attorney in August 1842. The parents of Charles Henry and Charlotte and Eliza were Charles Swann, Rector of Ridlington, and his wife Sarah. Elizabeth Swann seems to have been the only person connected with the Established Church who Sarah knew socially. Her seeing round the church is in stark contrast to the lack of any reference in the Diary connected with the Uppingham parish church.

Mary Taylor (3 Mar 1847) Not identified.

Edward Thompson (4 May 1845)

Probably the brother of Henry Thompson of Grantham, who was married to Sarah's sister Elizabeth. Not a resident of Uppingham.

George & Margaret Towell & family (17 June 1843, 15 July 1843, 29 June 1844, 14 Sept 1844, 11 & 18 Mar 1845, 20 Aug 1845)

George Towell, sometime innkeeper and afterwards a grazier, and his wife Margaret were living on the south side of the High Street near to its western end they leased or rented from William Satchell.

In 1841 Margaret was 40 years old and mother of 7 children aged from 17 to 1. One of her sons George was a pupil at Uppingham School (Feb 1837). Another Edward worked for Samuel Ashwood at the White Hart. Sarah records the death of a third son John in March 1845. Of several of Sarah's friends and acquaintances known to have died during the Ogden's stay at Uppingham, this and George Hart's are the only ones mentioned in the Diary; and funerals attended, none at all.

A daughter Charlotte is mentioned 14 Sep 1844. She would then have been about 20 years old; 'her Gent Mr Corsar' is not identified.

The Towells' house was located where there is now Lome boys' boarding house, still incorporating part of the edifice familiar to the Ogdens.

Treasurership (15 & 20 Oct 1845)

This was the Oakham Small Debts Court. Soon after this date such courts were superseded by the County Courts. Besides meeting at Oakham the Court was held in Uppingham every fourth Tuesday; the Clerk was W Gilson an Uppingham attorney and William Stevenson the sergeant. Ogden's rival for the post was Benjamin Hopkins⁴¹. Benjamin's predecessor was George Daniell the Uppingham bookseller, printer & stationer (6 High St East) who resigned owing the Court's Commissioners £355 8s 2d and in consequence was forced to sell up to repay them. The purchaser was Charles Wellington Oliver.

Mr Turner (5 Feb 1845, 6 May 1847)

The only Turner identified is the Rev'd William Turner, Second Master at the Grammar School since 1822 who rented another part of the Towell's residence. Mathews⁴² describes him as unambitious and remaining in post for 27 years until 1849.

Though their next door neighbour from the time she moved to Uppingham in 1843, these are Sarah's only reports of their meeting socially. Indeed she does not report meeting with

⁴¹ Lincolnshire Chronicle 24.10.1845

⁴² Bryan Matthews *By God's Grace ...*, Whitehall Press 1984 p.51.

anyone else from either the School or the Parish Church.

John Wade (8 & 27 Sept 1844, 4 Jan 1845, 11 Mar 1845, 26 June 1845, 26 July 1846, 1 Nov 1846, 17 Jan 1847, 7 & 14 & 26 Feb 1847, 14 Mar 1847, 2 & 30 May 1847)

Wade was a cooper living in North Street close to where Wade's Terrace now stands. In 1841 Wade aged 50 [52] and his 20 [23] year old bachelor son Thomas also a cooper are all the family. Ten years later the Census records John now 62 and Thomas aged 33 living at the same place. Thomas by then was married with a wife Elizabeth and three children. In 1851 John Wade is said to be married also but his wife was absent on Census night as also at the time of the previous one.

Wade was well off. He is said to have built the terrace of houses off North Street East that bears his name. He purchased from Gamble and Dr Bell's descendent the chapel (8 Orange St) and houses for the minister and chapel keeper (10 Orange St). Then he provided in his Will that his descendants maintain the use of the properties for Strict Baptist worship and associated accommodation for a minister and keeper rent free for so long as they remained in such use.

At the Ogdens arrival, Thomas Gamble was the dominant personality in the Chapel's affairs. He (and Wade) signed the application for chapel registration and the Strict Baptists met in a building on his property. By the time Sarah and Benjamin left Uppingham John Wade had replaced Gamble and was hosting the visiting minister. The rivalry between them, their differences & sulks are recorded in Sarah's Diary, causing her immense unhappiness.

The entry on 11 Mar 1845 is the first mention of Sarah calling socially on the leader of the Uppingham Bethesda Chapel where the Ogdens worshipped. A second social visit took place on 26 June. The apparent absence of a Mrs Wade and that Wade himself would have been working weekdays could have been an inhibiting factor.

Sarah mentions a return visit by Wade taking place on the evening of 26 July 1846 with the interesting comment that his "converse was more pleasant than usual". One can see why Sarah Ogden did not seem at ease at the Bethesda Chapel or drawn to socialise much with her fellow worshippers.

Was Mrs M A Sargant the wife of a Leicester Baptist Minister perhaps?

Wade's Cottage (31 Aug 1846)

Olive (Wade) was the wife of Richard Wade carrier. His property on the west side of School Lane backed on to the Old Lodge (the overflow to School House). Wade's Garden may have been somewhere here.

Wade's Garden (17 & 24 July 1846, 10 Feb 1848 (??))

Of uncertain location as there were several Wades in Uppingham at this time.

If it is John Wade leader of the Bethesda Chapel then its location is likely to have been behind his house in North St East where he had land now known as Wade's Terrace. But the Diary entry for 31 August suggests it is more likely to belong to Richard Wade carrier and located in School Lane under today's Memorial Hall, though here the garden would be less extensive.

Mrs Woods (28 July 1846)

Not identified. Possibly a resident of Wardley or Stoke Dry villages.

The woods mentioned could be either Stoke Dry or Wardley Woods, the latter being the more attractive with its spring flowers and accessible.

Mr & Mrs Wortley (15 Oct 1845, 25 July 1846)

Thought to be Nathaniel William Wortley. Pigot's 1835 & 1839 Directories describe him as Assessor of Taxes living in the High Street. Uppingham's 1837 Rate Book lists (entry 79)

him the occupant of a house & yard belonging to William Gilson (later William Sheild) an attorney who lived at 40/42 High St West. In 1821 Wortley & Thomas Hill as trustees of J T Fisher were admitted copyhold tenants of the ironmongers & adjacent shops that in 1839 they sold & surrendered to John Quincey Law.

In both 1829 and 1832 Wortley is present as a juror of the Rectory Manor Court which indicates he then either occupied or owned copyhold property in that manor. He does not feature in the 1846 Directory nor in the 1841 and 1851 Censuses at Uppingham so he may have moved to Ridlington (See Diary entry 25 July 1846).

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